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R. NEWSPAPER REGD

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## GOVERNMENT OF THE PARKS.

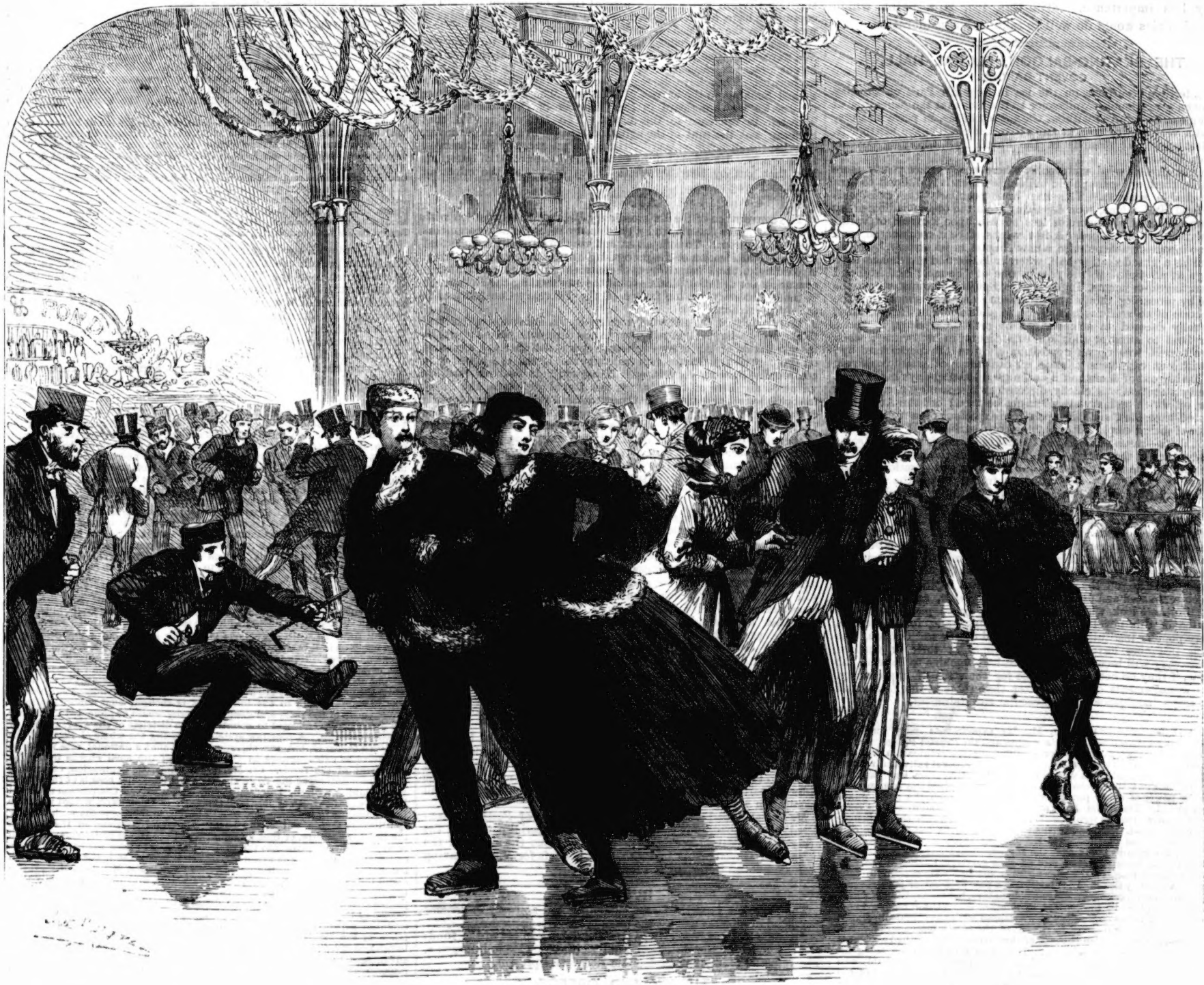
THE terrible catastrophe which happened in Regent's Park on Tuesday afternoon, and the disgraceful scene exhibited in St. James's Park on Sunday, show that there is urgent need for a reform in the management of the public parks in and near the metropolis. That a gang of the "roughs" of London, whose intense blackguardism is only too notorious, should have been allowed to hold unchecked control over one of the principal public resorts of the inhabitants of this city for several hours on a Sunday afternoon, and to maltreat and rob every respectable person who came in their way, is disgraceful and humiliating in the extreme. A great deal was said some time ago about interfering with the legitimate enjoyment of the parks by the public; but if the conduct of the blackguards who made St. James's Park the scene of their depredations on Sunday last be not an interference with the legitimate uses of the parks, we know not what can be considered such. We hope Lord John Manners is not so thoroughly wedded to Conservatism as to desire to maintain unchanged the existing system of management of the public parks in the face of so glaring an instance of the incapacity to pre-

serve order and ensure safety to the persons of the lieges therein.

The calamity in Regent's Park, though of a different kind, is another proof of the faulty way in which the parks are managed. Why should people be allowed to go upon the ice when it is known to be insecure? All skating and sliding should be rigidly prohibited on the ponds in the parks when to indulge in these amusements is palpably attended with danger; and, to do this, a force of police should be stationed at those spots sufficient in numbers and armed with ample powers to ensure obedience to the prohibition. It is in vain to trust to the good sense of the public in such matters, for unluckily good sense is not a commodity universally distributed among mankind. There are always numbers of foolhardy persons who will incur any amount of risk in order to gratify a whim; and it is the business of the authorities to take care that opportunities of getting into danger shall not be placed temptingly in the way of such reckless and thoughtless persons. The ponds in the parks are direct temptations, on the occurrence of a little frost, to foolish people to run into peril; and measures should be adopted to prevent their doing so. But the present system

of government as regards the parks is powerless to this end; the park-keepers are too few in number, and too ineffective in character, to perform the duty of securing order and safety in the parks, a task which should be entirely handed over to the police. If an Act of Parliament be necessary for this purpose, then one of the first things Parliament does on re-assembling next month should be to pass such an Act. Again we ask, will the conservatism of the powers that be stand in the way of such a reform as will place the metropolitan parks under real and effective guardianship?

But, apart from the subject we have been considering, another question is suggested by the disaster of Tuesday, and that is, Cannot measures be taken to render it possible for persons to slide and skate on the ornamental waters in the parks without risking more serious consequences than a ducking and the day or two's cold which may follow thereon? What necessity is there for these waters being of such a depth as to be dangerous? The lake in which so many lives were lost on Tuesday varies, we understand, from eight to eleven feet in depth. It was at the deepest part where the greatest number of deaths occurred. What purpose is served by having so great a depth of water there? For all purposes to



THE NEW SKATING SALOON IN THE FLORAL HALL, COVENT-GARDEN.



which the pond is appropriated a much less depth would be sufficient. Neither for bathing, boating, the comfort of the water-fowl, nor appearance, is eleven or even eight feet of water necessary. From three to four feet depth of water would be ample for all requirements during open weather, and would at the same time be safe for skating upon in time of frost. In fact, ice upon shallow water is infinitely better adapted for purposes of amusement than that upon deep, because it is less elastic, has less tendency to undulate and sway when weight is placed upon it, and consequently is less liable to give way. In short, it rests upon a more solid foundation; and hence its greater safety. This fact is well known, and is acted upon in the construction of artificial skating-ponds in England and curling-grounds in Scotland, in neither of which is the depth of water great. The ornamental water in St. James's Park, we believe, is not more than about 3 ft. in depth; and why a greater depth should be retained in the other waters in the public parks we are at a loss to conceive. It is a proverbial remark that we in England never begin making a reform or adopting an improvement till some disaster has demonstrated its absolute necessity. If such a stimulus to action be needed in this matter, surely it is supplied by the calamity of Tuesday last; and it is to be hoped that, ere another winter comes, danger to life from immersion in the public ponds will be rendered *nil* by reducing the depth of water in them.

It has been complained that the supply of ropes, ladders, and men was inadequate on the late sad occasion; and this, perhaps, is not to be wondered at. The duty of providing such appliances is left to be performed by the Royal Humane Society, whose principal resources are derived from voluntary subscription, and which must proportion its ways to its means. We have no doubt the directors of that excellent institution do the utmost they can; but it is also easy to conceive that that utmost may fall far short of what is required. The remedy for this, of course, is that the task should be undertaken by Government, whose duty it should be to provide an ample staff of efficient icemen, thoroughly furnished with every appliance necessary for the saving of life in such an emergency as that of Tuesday. On this point, however, it is scarcely necessary to insist at length, for if the depth of water in the park ponds were reduced as we have suggested, ropes, ladders, &c., would be of comparatively less importance. Still this, too, is a point which the authorities would do well to take into consideration.

#### THE SKATING-SALOON, FLORAL HALL, COVENT-GARDEN.

THE terrible occurrence on the ice in Regent's Park on Tuesday afternoon gives double significance to the fact that the recreation of skating can be enjoyed without the agency of ice, in perfect safety, and at a very trifling cost, at more than one place in the metropolis. The last opened of these is in the Floral Hall, adjoining Covent-Garden Theatre.

Even in this crowded metropolis, where space grows yearly more valuable, there are some public buildings which it is difficult to turn to profitable account. This has been peculiarly the case with the Floral Hall, which, soon departing from the object indicated by its name, entered with more or less success upon a career of varied speculation and adventure. A few weeks since it commenced, and with no inconsiderable promise, a new chapter in its history, by being opened as a grand skating-hall, wherein ladies and gentlemen may indulge at all times of the year in one of the most healthful and exhilarating amusements. Ingenuity is exhausted in ministering to the palate by procuring things out of season; and why should not the production of an artificial lake of ice, to glide along in June or July, be equally deemed an achievement of art? Certainly, it seems rather bold to attempt such an experiment in midwinter, when Nature herself sets up an opposition shop in the parks hard by; but, with our capricious climate, we can never calculate positively upon having out of doors half a dozen good skating-days in the year. Formerly attention was chiefly directed to discovering a substitute for ice, on which ordinary skates might be used; but the Americans discarded that idea, and hit upon the expedient of a roller-skate, capable of being employed on any smooth surface. It is with this kind of skate—resting on a series of small indiarubber wheels, or some soft substance of that nature—that the people at the Floral Hall skim along with all the facility and all the attitudes and gyrations of the members of the skating club when in full array on the waters in Kensington Gardens. Nearly the entire floor of the hall, 228 ft. in length by 75 ft. in breadth, has been planed to the evenness of a dining room table, and covered without break by a smooth material representing a sheet of ice. Round this a line of ropes defines the space set apart for those who only wish to be spectators of the scene, and here and there are stationed lads who, armed with an abundant supply of skates, lend them to visitors for a trifling sum and fix them on the feet with wonderful rapidity. The hall has been renovated and decorated for the occasion, and has a clean and comfortable look, while the strains of a grand piano add to the attraction of this novel exhibition. Skating-halls, for all seasons, are very popular institutions in the United States and Canada, and in some instances have made the fortunes of their originators. Whether they will become acclimatised here remains to be seen; at any rate, if they do not, it will not be for the want of opportunity, for no arrangements could be better than those at the Floral Hall for an ample indulgence in this muscular entertainment.

**RAILWAY-TRAIN SIGNALS.**—On Monday experiments were made, in trains running between the Victoria station and the Crystal Palace, for the purpose of testing an invention for establishing communication between passengers and guard while the train is in motion. Several railway directors, officials, and other gentlemen were present. The invention was patented by Messrs. Le Keux and Wisart, the object being to place the communication in the power of every passenger, as well as between the front guard and rear guard. The signal shows at once to the guard and driver the compartment from which the signal was given, and afterwards the passenger who gave the signal. The apparatus was applied to the last carriage of a long train, and those who desired to witness the effect of the experiments travelled in the guard's break next the engine. The apparatus consisted of a piece of tubing inserted in the roof of each carriage, having at the part which was within reach of the passengers a slit just wide enough to take the edge of a railway ticket. In this slit was a pair of clams, or jaws, covered with a chemical composition of an ignitable nature, but the ignition of which could only take place by the contact of another composition having a chemical affinity. The passenger's ticket was tipped with the chemical affinity, and on the ticket being inserted in the slit of the tube a match was lighted, which discharged a rocket on the roof of the carriage, and ignited a coloured fire which burnt for several minutes. The passenger's ticket, on being inserted in the slit, was at once disfigured, and thus proved unmistakably who gave the signal. The rocket was heard from one end to the other of the train, and the light burnt brilliantly. It appeared that there was no gear to get out of order, and it was stated that the apparatus could be cheaply applied, that trains could be "made up" without interfering with it, and that it was as efficient in signalling when one part of a train was accidentally separated from the other as when the train was complete.

## Foreign Intelligence.

### FRANCE.

There is no political news of any importance from Paris. The army-organisation scheme is still the chief topic of public interest, and all sorts of rumours are afloat about it—the one to which the public cling with hope being that of its abandonment. The War Office estimates for 1868 are 10½ million francs in excess of those for 1867, nine millions of the excess being required for the expense of new breech-loaders.

A duel between M. Paul de Cassagnac and one or more Italian officers is imminent, several Italian officers having challenged the clever writer for having indulged in reflections against Victor Emmanuel and the Italian army for the ill-success and want of skill, &c., which was shown at the Battle of Custoza.

The French mail-packet *Floride* arrived at St. Nazaire, on Tuesday, from Mexico on Dec. 18, with 936 French troops on board.

### SPAIN.

The accounts which come from Spain represent affairs there as worse than ever. Order is only maintained by the most rigid suppression of all public expression of opinion. Nevertheless, cries have been heard in Madrid of "Down with the Bourbons!" "Down with the throne!"

The conclusion of peace between Spain and the South American Republics is looked upon as certain to result from the mediation of the United States.

### ITALY.

Signor Scialoja made his financial statement in the Chamber of Deputies on Wednesday. He explained the reasons which had necessitated the forced currency of bank notes, and the conclusion of the national loan for 400,000,000 lire, as well as the results those measures had produced, and he gave an account of the expenses of the war with Austria, which amounted to 357,000,000 lire. At the close of 1865 there were 364,000,000 lire in the treasury, and this sum is declared by Signor Scialoja to be sufficient to cover the deficit of 1866 (including the amount remaining to be paid to Austria) and the deficit of 1867, including the Venetian portion of the Austrian debt and the portion of the Pontifical debt assumed by Italy. The expenses of the War Ministry for 1867 have been reduced to 140,000,000 lire. A supplementary Budget for 1867 has since been presented to the Chamber of Deputies. By this it seems that the estimated expenditure has been reduced by 27,000,000 lire. The new statement shows a deficit of 159,000,000 lire.

The dispute between the Italian and Turkish Governments, arising out of a Turkish ship of war firing on an Italian vessel, is announced to have been arranged in principle—the amount of the indemnity to be paid by the Turks being the only question now to be settled.

A terrible hurricane at Naples during Monday night, causing considerable damage to the shipping in the bay and at least four deaths. Twenty merchant-vessels have been lost and others placed in serious jeopardy. Four vessels have been lost off Baja through the violence of the gale.

### PRUSSIA.

The Judiciary Committee of the Chamber of Deputies have refused to agree to the proposal that offences against the press laws should be referred to a jury, on the ground that an amendment of the Constitution would at the present time be inopportune. The committee have, however, determined to submit to the Chamber a proposal for the abolition of the State Tribunal of Justice.

Prussia seems determined to stand no nonsense in Hanover. We have, from time to time, recorded the stringent measures taken to put down expressions of opinions in Hanover by the Prussian authorities. They have, it seems, sent a Hanoverian merchant, named Sonntag, to the fortress of Minden. The Prussian Minister of Justice was questioned in the Chamber of Deputies by Herr Twisten in reference to this arrest. The Minister replied that Sonntag was the soul of the agitation against Prussia in Hanover, and that the Government was determined to use exceptional measures, if necessary. He concluded by expressing disapproval of questions like that put by Herr Twisten. They only had the effect of maintaining agitation.

### AUSTRIA.

The convocation of the Extraordinary Reichsrath is regarded with much distrust in Austria, and a good many unfavourable comments are made upon it. To such an extent has the Opposition gone that a formal justification of the proceeding has been deemed necessary. Accordingly, the *Vienna Journal* contains an article which, while censuring the agitation, declares that the summoning the Reichsrath is made necessary by the failure of the February Constitution to satisfy the nation.

The draught of the address drawn up by M. Deak and submitted to the Hungarian Diet in reference to the Imperial patent upon the reorganisation of the army expresses regret that absolute measures on the part of the Government continue to lessen the hopes of a compromise between Austria and Hungary. It declares that, by virtue of the laws of the country, the Royal diplomas, the Pragmatic Sanction, and invariable Constitutional practice, the adoption of measures relating to the army organisation belong to the Diet; and that Hungary can never surrender this right, which is the vital condition of all constitutional existence. The address continues thus:—"Even on the ground of expediency alone, the patent on military re-organisation should never have been issued, as the existence of a State is not secured by the numerical strength and valour of its army, unless the army have a contented people at its back; and this patent has produced but a general feeling of irritation. Moreover, the urgency of a re-organisation of the army is but a fresh reason for a restoration of the Constitution, inasmuch as Hungary, without a Constitution, is, in case of need, but a weak source of reliance; and the Diet can lay no burdens upon the nation so long as the latter continues deprived of its rights. Hungary recognises the necessity for a change in the military system, and will sanction all suitable modifications; but looks upon the measures which have been ordered without the consent of the Diet as illegal." The draught of the address, in conclusion, prays his Majesty not to make an arrangement between Austria and Hungary impossible by absolute decrees, but to withdraw the present patent and all other illegal ordinances and to immediately re-establish the Constitution, on the ground that the strengthening of the State and the objects of the Pragmatic Sanction will only be attainable by a return to a Constitutional state of things both in Hungary and in the countries on the other side of the Leitha.

The Lower House of the Diet has adopted the address of M. Deak, which has been sent to the Upper House, where its adoption is considered certain. It is stated that should the Government not accede to the terms of the address several influential members of the different parties in the Diet will introduce a motion to break off all negotiation with it.

M. Bartal, Vice-President of the Governorship of Pesth, has tendered his resignation in consequence of the Imperial patent on the army re-organisation having been issued without the assent of the Council of Governorship in Pesth. He has left for Vienna, having been summoned thither by the Emperor.

### RUSSIA.

The Czar has issued a decree extending an amnesty to persons convicted of offences against the press laws.

A public bail has been given at St. Petersburg in aid of the funds for the relief of the distressed families of the Cretan insurgents. The Imperial family and Diplomatic Body were present.

### TURKEY AND GREECE.

The relations between Greece and Turkey seem to be growing more and more unfriendly. If the accounts to hand may be believed, Turkey is preparing a great armed force with which to compel Greece

to abstain from interference between the Christian subjects of the Porte and their ruler.

### DENMARK.

On Monday in the Folkething the President announced that the Minister of War will shortly introduce a bill proposing the gradual construction of fortifications. The King has sanctioned the bill authorising the outlay of 1,333,333, rix dollars for furnishing the Danish army with new arms.

### THE UNITED STATES.

The brief telegrams from New York, through the Atlantic cable, are often more exciting than satisfactory. A few days since one announced that the House of Representatives had resolved on impeaching the President; a succeeding one stated that the impeachment was likely to be abandoned; and a third informs us that, notwithstanding the efforts made for the abandonment of the impeachment, the Radical party insist on its being proceeded with.

### ADDRESS OF THE ITALIAN CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES.

SUBJOINED is the text of the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne, just adopted by the Chamber of Deputies:—

Sire,—When your Majesty ascended the throne, Italy, after having tired out adversity as she had vanquished fortune, sought in vain to recognise herself in her scattered members. You revived her hopes; you summoned her to reassume, by firmness and wisdom, her place in the estimation of the world and in the friendship of the most generous peoples. It is, therefore, with good right, Sire, that to you it has fallen to proclaim, after a reign of seventeen years, that the country is free from all foreign rule. United in a bygone age by the hand of her subjugators, Italy finds herself now more happily united by the spontaneous agreement of minds. Strong in the consciousness of her right, which her children have always proudly upheld, even under the constraint of despotism, she has been valiantly supported by her soldiers, who, on land and sea, in the ranks of volunteers and in those of the army, have displayed a courage proof against all vicissitudes; and the powerful aid of her alliances has shown that her cause is that of civilisation itself, which in the free flight of every nationality henceforth sees for all the surest guarantees of order and peace. The deliverance of Venice, restored to Italy with a noble company of provinces, has also a pacific bearing. While opening to us the entrance of those formidable ramparts which, after having too long been an instrument of oppression, are now about to cover our independence, Venice brings us the example of her splendid civic defence, the inheritance of her great traditions; and, with her hand stretched out towards the East, shows us the ancient route of the commerce of the world, along which the industrial genius of the period invites us to walk in the footsteps of our ancestors, which time has not yet effaced. We are about to inaugurate that era of peaceful relations and agreement by the discussion of the treaty with the empire of Austria which your Majesty's Government has laid before us, and we trust that ulterior negotiations with this Power will smooth away, in conformity with the data of nature and history, those difficulties created for the two States by the too often abnormal and factitious outline of the frontiers that separate them. A loftier and more complex problem is going on in the Eternal City. Evacuated at the period arranged by the French troops, Rome still labours with that fermenting trouble—a mixture of earth and heaven—in which order and regularity will not make way until they have been ripened by time. We shall await this maturity with confidence, as men devoted to liberty of conscience and to the faith of treaties, as well as firm interpreters of the national aspirations. Henceforth we shall be able specially to take in hand the task of restoring equilibrium in the finances, improving the internal organisation, and developing the prosperity of the State. We long to perfect our military institutions and our arms in accordance with the most modern experience, so that the country may always find therein a sure support, while giving back to labour those who would be a burden upon the State without being available for its defence. In taking for the objects of our efforts to distribute the burden of taxation in the most equitable manner, to favour the progress of production as much as is in the power of wise laws, and to relieve the public credit by the same operation, we shall not hesitate to remove with a vigorous hand that superfluous machinery which, in administration as elsewhere, multiplies friction to the detriment of force; and we shall endeavour, by simplifying the system, to promote social business and accelerate its progress to the double profit of the citizens and the treasury. All the measures which for these purposes your Majesty's Government shall think proper to lay before us will become, upon our part, the subject of study as conscientious and assiduous as the desire for progress is warm and deep in our hearts.

Sire.—The Italian nation will not belie the expectation it has aroused in the world during the stormy days of its trials. Devoted to our new task, justly stimulated by the strong wishes of the country, encouraged by your Royal word, we resume our labours with the firm will to do all that depends upon us, that these supreme benefits we have so ardently invoked—liberty and independence—may call forth in the bosom of the country, as fully as it is in their beneficent nature to do, all the powers of mind and of will, may develop there all the germs of private and public wealth, and secure their fruits, to the end that Italy, now responsible for her acts, inasmuch as she is mistress of her destinies, may once again bring a contingent worthy of herself to the stream of civilisation.

On Sunday King Victor Emmanuel received the deputation charged to present the address of the Chamber of Deputies in reply to the Speech from the Throne. The King addressed a few words to the deputation, in which his Majesty, after expressing congratulations at the results which Italy had obtained, said that there now remained two questions to be resolved—that of finances and the Roman question. With respect to the finances, he hoped that the difficulties would be shortly surmounted, and that the financial statement of Signor Scialoja would disperse many clouds. Concerning Rome, his Majesty said that this was a question of time, which would resolve it agreeably to the national aspirations.

**FUNERAL OF THE MARQUIS DE LAROCHEJAQUELEIN.**—The obsequies of the Marquis de Larochéjaquelein were performed, on the 11th inst., in the Church of Peq. At twelve o'clock the coffin, on which were laid the sword of honour given to the deceased nobleman by the Emperor of Russia for his gallant conduct in the campaign of the Morea, and his insignia as Commander of the Legion of Honour and Grand Cross of St. Januarius of Naples, was borne to the chapel. The chief mourners were the son and son-in-law of the deceased, the Count Julian de Larochéjaquelein and the Count de Rochechouart; and the pall-bearers were General Count Goyon, Count de Germiny, and Viscount Lagueronnière, senators, and M. David, deputy for the Deux-Sèvres. In the cortège were General Count de la Hite, Count Clary, M. de Mentque, and Count Labodière, senators; M. de la Turmelière, Chamberlain to the Emperor; several deputies, and a considerable number of the friends of the family. When the religious service was over, the remains were taken to the railroad to be transported to St. Aubin (Deux-Sèvres), where they were deposited in the same tomb where repose the deceased's mother, the heroine of La Vendée; his father, Louis, killed in La Vendée, in 1815, at the head of the insurgents against Napoleon; his uncle, Henri, killed in La Vendée, in 1794; and his brother Louis, killed near Lisbon in the civil war, during which he served in the army of Dom Miguel.

**POOR-LAW REFORM IN SCOTLAND.**—For some time a movement has been going on in Scotland, particularly in the town parishes, for the purpose of extending to Scotland the principle lately adopted in England, under the Act of Mr. Villiers, for aggregating parishes into poor-law districts. At present about £90,000 is annually spent in pauper management in Scotland, while the urban parishes are unduly burdened from the tendency of the aged poor to find their way to the towns. It is thought that a more equitable arrangement of the rates and greater economy would be promoted by having the present areas enlarged to counties, or to districts of the average size of Scottish counties. A poor-law system embracing the whole of Scotland has also been talked of, but the objection to it is that a national rate would be conducive to extravagance in the absence of the local checks to the disbursement of the funds. On Monday a numerous deputation, embracing the representatives of the Town Councils and parochial boards of the city of Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Dundee, Perth, &c., also the Convention of Royal Burghs, and the South of Scotland Chamber of Commerce, waited upon the Lord Advocate in his chambers at Edinburgh, to represent the wish of their constituents that a bill should be introduced for Scotland on the basis of the English measure, or that a Committee of the House of Commons should be appointed to inquire into the subject; as also to take evidence as to the causes of the alarming increase of pauperism in Scotland, the cost of which has more than tripled in the past twenty years. Mr. McLaren, M.P., introduced the subject to the Lord Advocate's notice, and stated generally that the deputation was desirous to have for Scotland an extension of the area of pauper chargeability similar to what had been obtained for England in the Session of 1865. He explained that the Scottish counties were similar in extent of population to the English unions, and might advantageously be taken as the basis of the proposed measure. The Lord Provost of Edinburgh and Mr. Curror, of the city parochial board, followed, and urged the advantages to be obtained by such a measure, both in the interest of the ratepayers and of the paupers. The Lord Advocate stated that he felt the importance of the subject as evidenced by the influential deputation which had waited upon him, but that various points of difficulty occurred to him in regard to which he desired explanations. A lengthened conversation ensued, at the close of which the Lord Advocate assured the deputation that he would give the subject his most serious consideration.



## FEARFUL ACCIDENT IN REGENT'S PARK.

ON Tuesday afternoon a fearful accident took place on that part of the ornamental water in Regent's Park immediately opposite Sussex-terrace, by which a large number of persons have lost their lives. On this part of the lake, which is the broadest, several thousand persons had been skating during the forenoon without any accident taking place, although the ice was looked upon by the experienced icemen on duty as very unsafe, from its being principally snow-ice. About half-past three o'clock in the afternoon there were near the same spot about 500 skaters, among whom were many ladies, there being at the same time on the banks from 2000 to 3000 spectators. Suddenly, and without any warning, the ice at the sides of the bank became loosened, and was drawn from the edge. Within a minute the whole sheet of the ice over the full width of the lake gave way, and split up into fragments of a few yards square. The consternation and alarm of the skaters and other persons on the ice may be well imagined, and a general rush was made for the banks. Unfortunately this broke up the soft ice into still smaller pieces. Numbers of persons fell through the crevices into the water, which is at least 12 ft. deep, and several appeared at once to be sucked under the ice. At least 200 persons were struggling in the water and screaming for help. A few, with great presence of mind, threw themselves flat upon the surface of the pieces of ice, and were thus not only instrumental in saving the lives of many of those in the water, but preserved their own until assistance came to them. The screams of those struggling and sinking in the water, and the shouts of the people on the banks, added to the horror of the scene. The icemen, of whom the full number were on duty, did all that it was possible to do under the circumstances, and three of them narrowly escaped drowning, having, when in the water helping the people out, been seized by others, and pulled under the ice. Several of the park-keepers and spectators rendered all possible aid, and more than 100 persons, within a few minutes of the accident, were got on shore, the great number of whom were so much exhausted that they had to be taken to the Humane Society's tent and placed under medical treatment. While this was going on several persons who were in the water in the middle of the lake, and whom it was impossible for the icemen to reach, the ladders and boats being rendered almost useless owing to the state of the ice, were seen to sink back exhausted, evidently numbed with cold, after vainly endeavouring to support themselves by clutching at the rotten ice, which crumbled away in their grasp. What made the scene the more dreadful was that the female relatives of many of those who fell into the water saw their struggles from the bank without the possibility of saving them. One lady saw her husband sink and lose his life, while two sisters were sending forth piercing screams and calling on the people to save their brother. He was drowned, and the two ladies were taken away in a most pitiable state, and sent to their home in a cab. Shortly after four o'clock a strong body of the D division of police and an additional number of icemen from Hyde Park arrived, but too late to render any aid except in getting out the bodies of those drowned, all the persons alive having by this time been rescued and taken to the tent. Some had suffered simply from the immersion and fright, but forty were lying more or less exhausted. Several of the medical men in the neighbourhood had hastened to the scene of the accident on hearing the news; and by unremitting attention on their part, under the direction of Dr. Obré, the surgeon of the district for the Humane Society, had sufficiently recovered by five o'clock to be taken away in cabs, some to their own homes, some to the hospital, and others to the workhouse. The inhabitants of Sussex-terrace vied with each other in sending over to the tent all the necessities required by the medical men. The most mournful part of the accident has now to be recorded. As soon as the ice was cleared, a body of icemen and labourers with great difficulty got out the boats to that portion of the water where it was known several persons had sunk. Before dusk seven bodies had been recovered, but it was known that there were many more under the ice. The bodies, as they were brought one by one to the shore, were taken to the tent, and their pockets searched for the means of identification, but in no case was this successful. One body was that of a gentleman aged thirty. The others were those of young men, apparently in the middle class of life, from eighteen to twenty years of age. All the bodies when recovered had skates upon their feet. At seven o'clock the bodies were removed on stretchers to the Marylebone Workhouse, where they will lie for identification. A hat was picked up in the water supposed to have belonged to one of those whose bodies have not yet been recovered—the maker's name, "T. Ashton, London." Inside the hat was a letter without an envelope, dated "High Ford Mill, Burnley," and signed "T. Grimshaw," beginning "Dear Richard." Inquiries were being hourly made at the workhouse and the police station by persons who had relatives missing. At ten o'clock it was reported that some more bodies had been taken from the water, making ten in all. The officials of the Humane Society loudly complain that they do not have the aid of the police in keeping people off the ice when it is in a dangerous state, and say that if police aid is given after an accident has taken place, it ought also to be given to prevent accidents taking place.

The following description of the scene is supplied by an eyewitness:—"The scenes presented were most startling and harrowing. Women rushed about on the banks screaming out that their children, or husbands, or brothers were drowning, and imploring the bystanders to save them. Boys and girls stood hysterically crying and wringing their hands, and between their sobs exclaiming, 'Oh, look at father! Oh, father, father!' and giving expression to other heartrending exclamations; and strong men convulsively appealed to those who had no means of help, and pointed out friends and relations struggling in the agonies of death. Only those who, like the writer, were on the spot, and saw with their own eyes what took place, can form an adequate idea of the calamity which in an instant placed 200 persons at the very gates of death, almost within arms' reach of those who were related to them by the closest ties, but who were yet in most cases obliged to stand helplessly by and see them fighting desperately for life, and gradually succumbing or waiting passively, clinging to pieces of ice till they became insensible and lost their hold. While sympathy and regret move all who hear of the sudden and painful death of so many human beings, it must be recorded that the death they met with was the result of their own excessive foolishness in remaining upon the ice to steal a few extra moments' enjoyment at a fearful risk, when thousands of persons saw and appreciated the fearfully unsafe condition of the ice, and congregated on the banks with the certain expectation of seeing large numbers immersed in the water. By half-past three o'clock the ice showed unmistakable signs of breaking up. It was cracked to such an extent that there was not a sound piece of more than a foot or so broad, and the cracks were clearly marked by the water which rose through them. These alarming symptoms were noticed by everybody, and many who had sense enough made the best of their way off, expressing their opinion as they did so that the ice would not last many minutes longer. Even these in many instances got a wetting in getting out of danger; for, with hardly an exception, the ice had parted from the shore right round the lake. Notwithstanding the warning signs, more than 200 persons still remained on the ice skating and sliding. Shortly before four o'clock three children and two men went through the ice together at about a dozen feet from the south-western shore. A gentleman immediately plunged in and brought to the shore the three children, who clung round so as almost to drown him. Here one of the Royal Humane Society's men excited a great deal of indignation. He went a foot or so into the water and there waited till the children were brought to him, and then, with another, claimed to have rescued them. One of the men who had fallen in scrambled out, and the other was taken from a boat by a Royal Humane Society's man. Immediately after this several other people fell in, but they were soon got out. Somewhat awakened to their position by these accidents and the shouts of the people on the banks, a few other persons left the ice, not, however, without in most cases falling through when near the shore. At this time a

dozen people on the north-eastern side, near the boat-house, who were standing close together, watching the misfortune of the others, next fell in together. This was witnessed from all parts, and created a panic among all who remained on the ice, and they all with one accord rushed towards the opposite shore. Before this movement commenced numbers were seen dropping through the ice in all parts. As the frightened groups made for the banks the whole field of ice gave two or three heaves, and then simultaneously broke up over the whole of the broad part of the lake. In an instant 200 men and children were thrown into the water. A fearful cry of dismay proceeded from them as they fell, which was mingled with a loud shout of horror from the thousands who lined the banks. Then all was confusion and distraction. For several minutes nothing effectual was even thought of, and there in the water could be seen children of from eight to twelve years of age clinging to the edges of the broken ice, crying every moment in frantic voices for the assistance which those who witnessed their sufferings were powerless to render them, and in a brief time giving up their short lease of life with a few last faint waves of the hands above the water. Those who witnessed these scenes cried and shrieked with even greater exhibition of feeling than the sufferers themselves. The first shock over, men rushed wildly about, seizing upon everything in the shape of a rope or spar to throw to the struggling and drowning; but by this time all direct communication with them was cut off by the general breaking-up of the ice, and very few were reached for a long time. A cry was raised of 'The boats, the boats!' and hundreds of willing workers ran off to return with the boats on their shoulders; but when they got them into the water the greatest difficulty was experienced in forcing them through the ice. Ropes were rapidly joined, and then one end of each being carried across the bridge they were stretched from shore to shore and dragged along. A few persons managed to grasp them, but they could not be dragged ashore and had to remain holding on to them till the boats picked them up. Some of them failed to hold on long enough, and the spectators were horrified to see, every now and then, a man thoroughly exhausted gradually relax his hold and sink. Many instances of individual gallantry took place. One man, at the most imminent risk, plunged in and brought several children safely out. A gentleman, who broke through near the south-western shore, fell so that his head and chest rested on a large block of ice, while his feet were in the water. There he lay, smoking his pipe, for a long time, while the boats were further out picking up, as fast as possible, those in a worse position. He began, however, to realise his position, and, removing his pipe from his mouth, he called out, '£50 to anyone who will fetch me out!' Several abortive attempts were made to reach him with ropes, poles, and ladders. A man, with the aid of a ladder, reached a small piece of sound ice, and endeavoured to throw a rope to him, but it fell short. He then managed to push the ladder on to a piece of ice further out, and standing on the former he again threw the rope. In doing so he fell, and in clinging to the ladder he hurt himself, and was drawn ashore. A gentleman then got into an escape fitted up with barrels at the end. When pushed out as far as possible he got into the water and endeavoured to push the escape along, but he did not succeed. Eventually, a man stripped to his shirt and trousers, and, a rope having been fixed to his waist, he desperately fought his way through the ice, and, seizing the skater round the body, they were both dragged to land amid tremendous cheers. A man named Moore, who received a medal two years ago for saving people under similar circumstances, was very active and saved several persons. Just as one of the boats approached a sufferer he sank, but a young man in the boat plunged after him into the water, and brought him up. They were both got into the boat. Mr. Wenzell, the proprietor of the boat, was most energetic in his efforts, and many persons are indebted to him for their lives. A young man stood on a solitary piece of ice in the centre of the lake for an hour and a half, and was at last fetched off by a man who reached him in a boat. Within about half an hour of the breaking of the ice, large bodies of police began to arrive, and rendered great assistance in dragging ropes that had been caught by some of those in the water, in fetching and launching boats, and keeping idlers back. All this time the excitement was kept up by the frequent sinking of those who had lost all power to support themselves."

The true magnitude of the distressing catastrophe which occurred on Tuesday in Regent's Park is not yet (Thursday evening) fully ascertained. Twenty-three dead bodies were recovered on Wednesday and four on Thursday, which, with the ten reported on Tuesday, make a total of thirty-seven lives lost. As, however, a considerable portion of the water has not yet been thoroughly dragged, and there continue to be numerous inquiries for missing friends or relatives, it is tolerably certain that other victims are yet lying beneath the treacherous ice. No event has occurred in the metropolis during the present century which has desolated so many domestic circles; and the scenes following the identification of the bodies have frequently been agonising. An inquest was opened on Wednesday by Dr. Laukester, Coroner for the western division of Middlesex. Notwithstanding the melancholy catastrophe of Tuesday, the Long Water and Round Pond at Kensington, and the lakes at Battersea and St. James's Parks, were crowded on Wednesday and Thursday with skaters and sliders.

**NIGHT AND SUNDAY POSTING AT THE GENERAL POST OFFICE.**—On Saturday last a commodious pillar letter-box, upon an entirely different principle to those hitherto in use, in shape hexagonal, and surmounted with the Royal arms, was set up at the north-western entrance to the portico in St. Martin's-le-Grand, for the special convenience of the public posting letters through the night and on Sundays for the early morning mails. It bears the following "Notice to the public," which sufficiently shows its purpose:—"This box is open from 8 p.m. till 5 a.m. on week days and all day on Sundays, for letters for the first delivery in London and for the provincial, colonial, and for the foreign day mails. Newspapers and packets too large to be posted in the box should be taken to the lobby-door at the back of the building, facing Gresham-street, where they will be received by the messenger on duty."

**INTERNATIONAL TRADE ASSOCIATION.**—At a meeting of the London Trades' Council held on Tuesday night at the Bell Inn, Old Bailey—Mr. Danter (President of the Amalgamated Engineers' Society) in the chair—the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:—"That this meeting is of opinion that the position of the working man can never be much improved, and is in imminent danger of being seriously depreciated, while the people of different countries have no regular intercommunication among themselves for the purpose of regulating the hours of labour and assimilating wages; and as the International Association affords the best facilities for bringing about that object, it is hereby resolved to co-operate with that association for the furtherance of all questions affecting the interests of labour, at the same time continuing the London Trades' Council as a distinct and independent body as before."

**THE LATE LORD PALMERSTON.**—In consequence of the heavy expense and other difficulties, the design as originally agreed upon for a mortuary chapel at the eastern end of Romney Abbey Church in memory of the late Lord Palmerston, who was a native and resident of the town, has been abandoned; and in its stead the sub-committee recommend the insertion of stained glass in the large windows at the western end of the church, so justly celebrated for their beauty. This memorial, if carried out, will be in close proximity to the tomb of the Temple family. The Hon. William Cowper has stated that the suggestion has the full approval of Lady Palmerston, and has also offered to receive from the committee the funds which have been contributed towards the erection of a memorial statue in the market-place of Romney, and himself to supplement the sum to such an extent as may be necessary to secure a work of art from the hands of a sculptor of the highest reputation whom he would select.

**MUSEUM OF PRACTICAL GEOLOGY.**—This museum was lighted up on Monday night for the first time. The Lords of the Committee of Council on Education have besides ordered that in future the museum shall be open to the public on the evenings of Monday and Saturday in every week. The throwing open for the inspection of the working people of the metropolis of an interesting and instructive museum such as this, at the only time at their disposal, is a boon which, when properly known, will no doubt be extensively availed of. Even on Monday night, when only a very small section of the public could have been aware of the very excellent decision of the Lords of the Council on Education, there was throughout the building a very goodly sprinkling of working men and their families. Certainly, no more delightful and beneficial way of spending an evening could be placed within the reach of the working classes. In the theatre of the museum lectures on geology are delivered certain evenings of the week, the privilege of attending which can, we believe, be easily acquired.

## REDUCTIONS IN THE ARMY OF ITALY.

GENERAL CUGLIA, Minister of War, has addressed a report to the King of Italy, dated Jan. 6, upon the reductions which the Ministry propose to effect in the Italian army. It states that the first calculation led the Minister to estimate the presumptive total of the War Budget for 1867 at 183,000,000 lire; but this amount he was subsequently able to reduce to about 163,000,000 lire. In voting the provisional exercise of the Budget for 1867, the Parliament expressed the wish that fresh propositions should be brought forward before Jan. 15, in which should be included ulterior reductions. Accordingly the Minister of War submits to his Majesty draughts of decrees ordering temporarily the following reductions:—One battalion in each regiment of infantry, one company in each battalion of bersaglieri, two companies in each regiment of the military train, four companies in each regiment of sappers, four companies in each regiment of field artillery, two companies in the regiment of pontoniers. The report continues,

I am now happy to be able to inform your Majesty that, by utilising certain resources in store, consisting of clothing and food in excess of the provision fixed for each warehouse, the war estimates will be able to meet all the requirements of the service during 1867 for about the sum of 140,000,000, including therein 7,000,000, for extraordinary expenses; and, consequently, to realise a saving of 10,000,000, in comparison with the normal saving fixed higher, at a total of above 42,000,000, with regard to that which would have been carried out if we had taken as basis the estimates of 1866, calculated upon the strictest peace footing. Thanks to the series of measures already explained to your Majesty, the Minister feels confident of having done everything he could to reconcile equitably the serious requirements of the public treasury and of the national security, neither of which can be regarded above the other without prejudice to both."

The Royal decrees following the Ministerial report are to the following effect:—

1. The chief command of Palermo and the divisions of Messina, Udine, and Forlì are suppressed. Sicily will constitute a territorial division directly dependent upon the Ministry of War; the division of Forlì is incorporated with the Bologna division, and that of Udine with Treviso. A new circumscription is established with reference to the Royal decree of Dec. 23, 1866, which abolished the district military commands and instituted those of provinces and fortresses. By this new circumscription the whole province of Pavia—that is to say, the districts of Pavia, Voghera, Bobbio, and Lomellina—come under the jurisdiction of the division of Piacenza, the province of Lucca under that of Leghorn, and which will also include the district of Portofino. The district of Treviglio will be included in the Brescia division.

2. The fourth battalion in each of the eighty regiments of the line is provisionally suppressed.

3. The fourth company in each of the forty-five battalions of bersaglieri is provisionally suppressed.

4. The same measure is provisionally applied to four companies of each regiment of field artillery and two companies in the pontonier regiment.

5. Provisional suppression of four companies in both regiments of sappers, and the seventh and eighth companies in both regiments of the military train.

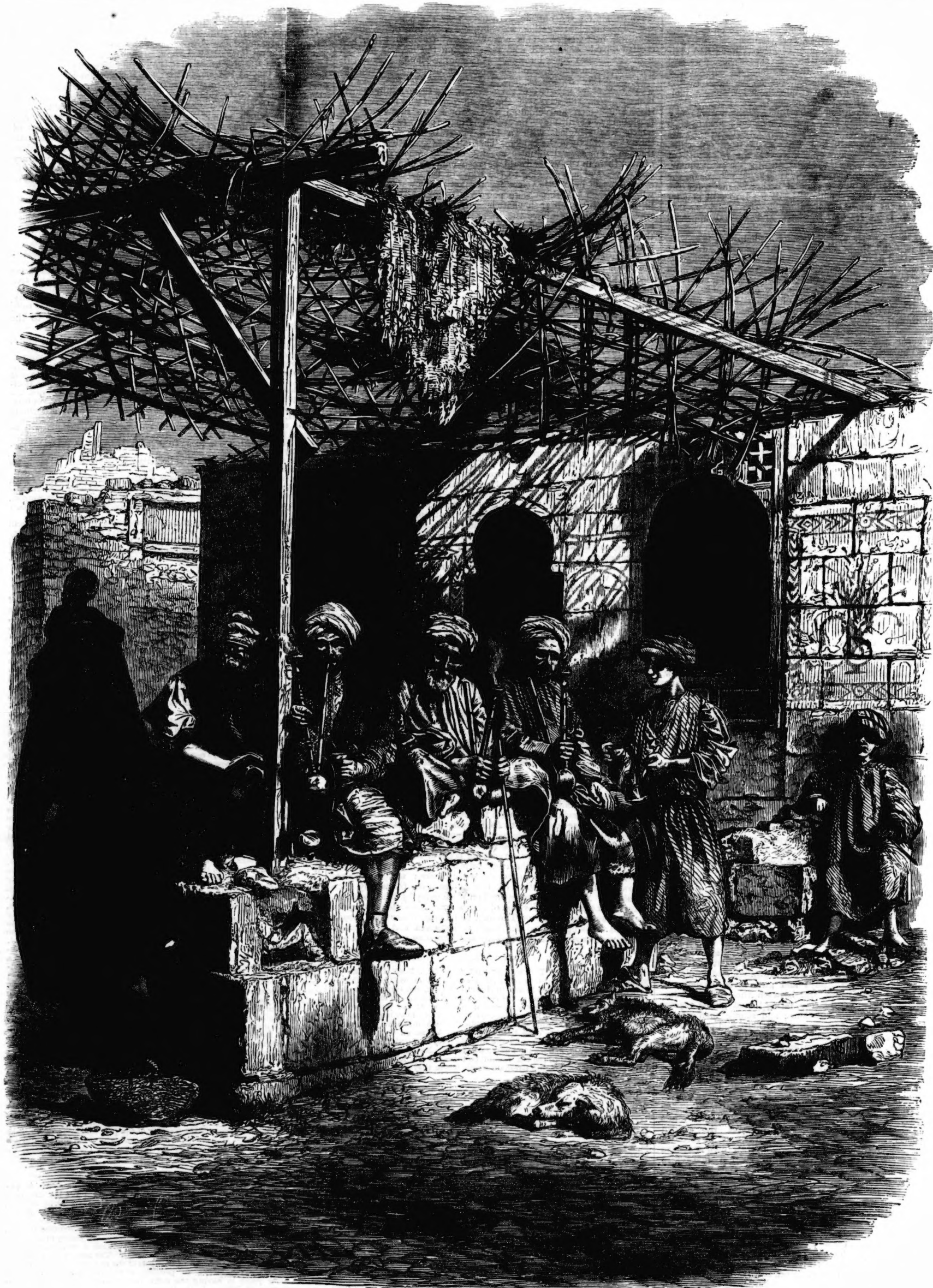
In order to effect numerically the above reductions, the class of 1842 will be furloughed in the infantry, and perhaps also that of 1843 in the military train and administrative corps. The men of the suppressed companies will pass as aggregates to the other companies of the corps, so that the cadre will not be destroyed, and may be reconstituted at any moment without administrative difficulty.

## INFLUENCE OF CLIMATE ON MIND.

"It is the hard, grey weather," sings Kingsley, in one of the very best of his lighter pieces, "breeds hard Englishmen," and the verse expresses one of the most popular of English superstitions. It is not a pleasant idea, nevertheless, that the worse the weather the more manly one ought to be, particularly as one isn't, and we feel very much inclined to question whether it has any true or solid foundation. There is a confusion in it, we fancy, between the effects of bad weather and the effects of that strife with difficulties, when carried on for generations, which undoubtedly strengthens the character of any race submitted to it. We English are all accustomed to say, with that love for avenging oneself on Nature which is so permanent a characteristic of human beings, that the denizens of bad climates are always stronger than the races which "bask" in or otherwise enjoy sunshine; but it is not true. The great races of earth, the races which have done things, which have thought, and fought, and taught with permanent effect, have lived in almost all climates except the very cold. Most of our ideas of theology come from a small knot of clans belonging to one race which lived in the hot valleys and on the vine-growing hill sides of the seaboard of Syria, where weather, at all events, is not hard. Grapes of Eschol dislike grey skies. Half our knowledge comes from the inhabitants of islands and small peninsulas bathed in the eternal summer of the Eastern Mediterranean, where the olive grew without cultivation, and sky-coloured eyes meant eyes of blue. The strongest race which ever lived, the true Roman patrician, lived under a sky for which Englishmen crave in vain, a sky which for ten months in the year is the very reverse of grey, which is indeed either blue, deep, perfect blue, yielding enjoyment through its mere clearness, or blazing like molten brass. We never could quite make out, indeed, in a proper theoretic way, what the Roman had to fight in the way of nature in such a climate and on such a soil as his; but, of course, he had something, or what would Mr. Kingsley do? The most energetic of Asiatic races, the Arab, was produced under a sky which knows not of grey, which is every colour but grey—a vicious sky, a malignant sky, scorching the souls out of men, but always, if you could only look up, possessing in calmness its own blue beauty. The only climate on earth exactly like that of England, or differing from it only in being slightly more equal, that of Tasmania, produced the lowest race of savages who ever came in contact with civilised man and died of the meeting. On the other side of the Atlantic our race grows great in all climates, produces under the hard grey weather Yankees proper, under a really beautiful climate the men of the west, and under tropical skies the Southerners, whose special fault is certainly not want of "grit." The theory of greyness seems to be as baseless as the counter theory about light. For all *a priori* reasons light ought to influence brain, but it does not, the English being in acuteness even, and certainly in inductive power, more than a match for Bengalees, and inferior to Athenians, with their yet more cloudless atmosphere. Indeed, we question if mere greyness of sky does even produce fortitude, the "hardness" Kingsley writes about, whether the Southern Asiatic has not more of that quality than the Northern. Strength he has not; but a Bengalee will bear unmoved tortures which would drive a Calmuck mad or induce him to forsake himself to an unlimited extent. Lighted lucifers placed under a Malay's nails would not induce him to deny his creed or give up a plan upon which he had resolved, and they would induce most Englishmen. It is the contest with difficulties, and especially natural difficulties, which, apart from vexed questions as to the influence of "race," properly so called, makes a people, not the contest with weather; and even that axiom is not invariably true. What had the Athenian to fight in particular except the sea, and that sea the Mediterranean?—or what had the Roman? An Icelander had twice as much to contend with, or a Malay, and developed just nothing at all, any more than the Finns did who, in the possession of hard, grey weather, are richer than all mankind, except the islanders of Skye, who also have done nothing. It is quite vexatious to hear an argument so palpably false as Kingsley's pressed, just when everybody is suffering from the hard grey weather he is so fond of. We do not believe London is a bit the better for the weather of the past fortnight—hard, grey weather of the worst kind, snow, and rain, and wind, and all climatic unpleasantnesses having been ceaseless in their action. On the contrary, we believe it is a good deal worse.—Spectator.

**DEATH OF A FRENCH THEATRICAL CELEBRITY.**—The death is announced of a person who was at one time as celebrated for her dramatic talent as for her beauty—Mlle. George. She was born at Amiens in 1783, and made her debut at the age of eleven. She was remarked by Mlle. Raucourt, the great tragedian of the day, who also united all the attractions of beauty to her talent as an actress. Mlle. Raucourt died in 1816, soon after the second Restoration, and the refusal of the clergy of St. Roch to allow her remains to enter the church occasioned a revolt which was near putting in peril the throne of Louis XVIII. The mob, with whom the actress was very popular, broke in the doors of the church; and though they could not force the clergy to perform a religious service, they yet gained their point in having the coffin laid before the altar. Owing to the protection of Mlle. Louis Bonaparte, afterwards Queen Hortense, Mlle. George was admitted to the Comédie Française, where she began by playing to crowded houses the parts of Semiramis, Dido, and Clytemnestra, in 1802. Five years later she left Paris for Germany, where she performed with great applause. She then proceeded to Russia, and was engaged for five years at the Imperial Theatre of St. Petersburg. In 1812 she performed at Dresden before Napoleon and a *partie de la cour*. In 1813 she returned to the Théâtre Français, where Talma was then in all his glory, and by whose lessons she greatly profited. After making the tour of the provinces and performing in various towns in Germany, she accepted an engagement at the Odéon, in Paris, where she played *Jeune d'Arc*, the *Marche d'Ancre*, &c. Her next appearance was at the Porte St. Martin, in "*Lucrèce Borgia*," "*Maria Tudor*," the "*Tour de Nesle*," &c. She again visited Russia, and on her return took benefit at several of the Parisian theatres. She finally quitted the stage in 1840. She is said to have been one of the last actresses who adhered to the pure traditions of the art. Her delivery of French dramatic poetry is said by those who heard her to have been perfect. She at one time was in possession of an immense fortune; but her name has hardly been mentioned for years past, and she has died in poverty and almost completely forgotten.





INTERIOR OF AN ARAB CAFÉ AT CAIRO.

## AN ARAB CAFÉ.

WHO is ever tired of reading about Cairo and that wonderful life in the Egyptian city which is always like a picture from an Oriental romance? Since the days when the "Arabian Nights" first enchanted us, we are always attracted by representations of that wonderful unchanging East; and even when we have visited the place itself, and find that it really is changing, and that the gorgeously picturesque is too often but the introduction to the shabbily dreary, we love to linger on what still remains of the ancient dream of Eastern life, and keep to the mosques and the bazaars, the coffee-houses and the fountains, the tombs and the narrow, uphill streets, where the faithful are to be found unaltered.

There is such a place in the spot represented by our Engraving—an

Arab café in the village just outside Cairo, named after the tombs of the Caliphs. Near the bazaar of the Khan Khaleel is the mosque of Sultan Kal'aoun, to which is attached the morastan, or madhouse, founded by that Prince in 1287. In the mosque is the handsome tomb of the founder; but the tombs of the Egyptian Caliphs, which occupied the site of the bazaar of Khan Khaleel, are all destroyed except that of El Saleh Eizoub, who died in 1250. Near them are the tombs of Sultan Baybars, Naser Mohammed Baharite, Mameluke Princes, and various others, some of them very elegant. But one gets tired of the tombs, and takes to haunting that strange Arab café, where the brown-legged customers sip their black decoction and bubble their narghiles as they loll upon the stone bench, listening to the storyteller or to the droning tattle of the pretendedly blind man,

whose turban conceals his eyes, inflamed and almost destroyed by ophthalmia.

Cairo contains above a thousand *Ckah'weehs*, or coffee-shops, and they differ but little from this rather rickety establishment, which consists of a small apartment, with a front towards the street formed of open arches, mostly of woodwork; in front a *mustubah*, or raised seat of stone or brick, 2 ft. or 3 ft. high, and sometimes covered with matting, on which the smokers squat. An attendant *Ckah'weege* dispenses the coffee and attends to the narghiles, or the smaller pipes used indifferently for tobacco or "haaheesh," which is the resin of hemp, or the leaves of the hemp itself with the resin in them, which, though it may have a less deleterious effect than opium, has, perhaps, helped in times past to provide inmates for the madhouses.



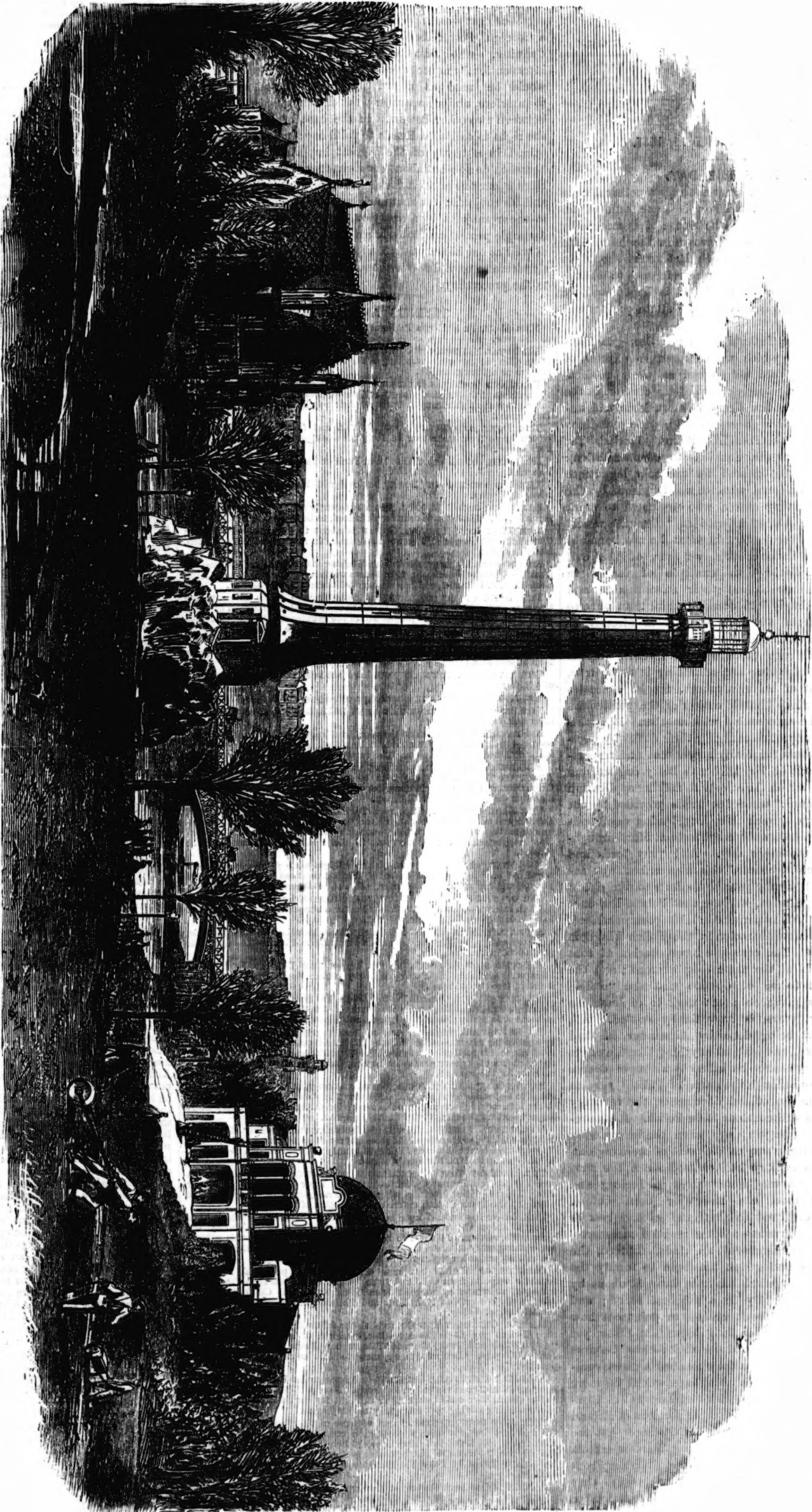
THE PARIS EXHIBITION.

We have already given such details of the progress of the Great International Exhibition building in Paris as would keep our readers posted up in the general advance of the works; and those works, as far as the building itself is concerned, are rapidly approaching completion. The whole of the main portions of the structure, whether in iron, stone, or wood, are nearly completed; the last portion commenced—namely, the sides and roofs of the grand vestibule and main avenue, reaching from the principal entrance-door to the central garden, will be finished in a few days. The

sides of the vestibule will form the *façade* of the French department on one side and of the English on the other, and here each of these commissions will present their most attractive face to the public. The sides of this vestibule and avenue are carried up to the level of the spring of the arched roof of the great outer gallery, or machine court; and light is obtained in the same manner in both—namely, by a double row of clerestory windows. The roof of the former is, however, in effect flat, being composed of a series of very slight curves in a transverse direction. At each end of this avenue is a bold semicircular window, with three-way entrance beneath, the *façade* giving on the outer garden, or park, being in wrought iron, and that on the

inner garden in masonry, to accord with the surrounding parts. At the principal entrance a bold *marquise*, or verandah, is being carried out beyond the line of that which surrounds the building; and each of the entrance-doors, in all sixteen in number, are being provided with similar protections against sun and rain. An extremely convenient arrangement is being perfected with respect to the comfort of visitors arriving by railway. The railway station stands very near the building, a road only separating them; over this road will be thrown a light roof, and from the entrance-gate opposite the station is being formed a covered way to one of the side entrances of the build-

ing itself, so that visitors will entirely escape exposure to the weather. The part, however, is now the great attraction, for it has grown rapidly towards completion; and, although it is laid out with the simplicity which naturally belongs to its "industrial" character, it is marvellously effective. From the Bridge of Jena to the pavilion of the military school the grand avenue divides the park into two equal parts, that half which borders the Quai d'Orsay and runs along the avenue Laboulaye is devoted to France, Belgium, and Holland, and extends the whole length of the avenue to the railing separating the park from the International Horticultural Garden. The other half of the park will be given up to the other nations



THE UNIVERSAL EXHIBITION BUILDING, PARIS: VIEW OF THE CHAPEL, LIGHTHOUSE, AND PHOTOGRAPHIC ESTABLISHMENT.

taking part in the Exhibition. On the frontiers of the French section will be seen the church of which we gave a description in a former Number, as being devoted to the display of ecclesiastical ornament. This is now completed by the finishing of the clock-towers, which, however, are much less effective than was intended, in consequence of their not having been carried up to their full height, and so exhibiting a doleful want of proportion. The masses of rock in the midst of the lake, to which we also alluded, are now united to the bank by a very pretty bridge, and the cascade, which it was intended should fall from the top of the rocks, has been superseded by a large lighthouse. On the other side of the sheet of water is the photographic saloon of M. Petit. It is this view which is represented in our

Engraving; and, by following a road which at this point leads towards the Seine, the visitor reaches the magnificent iron bridge which crosses the thoroughfare of the Quai d'Orsay. By this means the Champ de Mars is connected with the nautical exhibition on the right bank of the river near the Bridge of Jena. Beyond the limits of the park, but forming an integral part of the Exhibition, are two very large buildings, each about 200 ft. in length, on the banks of the river, but raised to a level with the quay. These are intended for restaurants, and are being built for a Parisian caterer; but it is said that he has conceived the idea of placing one of them in the hands of English managers. Perhaps the banks of the river would be one of the most

advantageous positions for an English tavern, especially as yachting, boating, and aquatic sports are calculated on as the most efficient means of giving life to the Seine during the summer; the head-quarters and landing-pier of the aquatic exhibition would, besides, be close to one of these establishments. But the most important and curious piece in the grounds is the formation of the aquarium. For one of these an immense cave has been formed by walls hidden by a talus; in the cave are numerous large pillars in rough masonry, to be covered eventually with imitation stalactite, or rather stalagmite work; on these walls and pillars lies a roof formed of iron joists placed about a yard apart, and the intervals between the joists

will be filled in with plate glass; this glass floor will light the cave both ends; but the whole of the central portion, a double square, perhaps 70 ft. long, with octagonal ends, is occupied by the aquarium. This curious structure is formed at the sides of slender cast-iron pillars, between which will also be plate-glass; the sides seem about 20 ft. high. At each side of the aquarium two galleries are being formed, so that the fish within may be seen from the sides, above and below, at the ends, and from the cave beneath. Connected with this gigantic glass fish-box is a cascade and reservoir, which will be used to saturate the sea-water, and for pumping it back into the aquarium. There is another large aquarium being constructed in masonry for fresh-water fish.



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SATURDAY, JANUARY 19, 1867.

## TOPICS OF THE DAY.

UNTIL Parliament meets we must not expect political news of very remarkable interest. There is some talk of an attempt being made to overawe the House of Commons by means of a monster meeting of Reformers in the immediate vicinity of the sacred building. Such Reformers should, in the first place, reform their own ideas in reference to what is decent, proper, and, above all, legal. It is hoped, and, we think, may be expected, that this latest Reform project will not be carried out.

We are glad that the Bethnal-green poor-law guardians have justified the hope which we ventured to express of them last week. They are not so bad as their medical officer, Mr. Massingham, whose defence of his conduct in the case of the poor woman Anne Ferry is most lame and unsatisfactory, and who has been suspended by the guardians pending the decision of the Poor-Law Board. This is so far well, and the guardians are entitled to commendation; but it is sad to find that ground for the only legitimate excuse Mr. Massingham could advance was furnished by the blundering of the relieving officer, who neglected to mark the order for the doctor's attendance as "urgent," which, according to rule in all cases of confinement, he was bound to have done. Another instance this, we fear, of the evil effect of superiors setting an example of laxity in the performance of duty before their subordinates, and upon which we have lately had occasion more than once to comment. Apart from the fact that it is directly at variance with the statements of the friends of the deceased, Mr. Massingham's defence bears strong internal marks of *ex post facto* manufacture; but, admitting it to be true, he is condemned out of his own mouth, for he confesses that he neglected to make himself master of the particulars of the case, which he confounded with another. It is this careless, perfunctory way of discharging their duties by poor-law officials which endues the really necessitous and respectable poor with the spirit of Mr. Dickens's Betty Higden, and makes them prefer death on the streets to making application for relief at "the house;" while the funds provided by the ratepayers are eaten up by such idle, lazy, loafing vagabonds as those who appeared before the magistrate at Marlborough-street Police Court the other day. Ah! "my lords and gentlemen and honourable boards," this is an unhealthy state of things, and one well worthy your best efforts to remedy.

In the way of foreign news, we hear that Poland has once more been destroyed. An Imperial edict has been published, by which the national administration in the Polish kingdom is formally abolished. The complete incorporation of that kingdom with Russia is at the same time decreed; and the Russian papers seem to be of opinion that the "Polish question," which has given so much work to diplomatists during the last fifty years, is now finally settled. All, however, that is now being done by Alexander II. had been done by Nicholas I., and without anything like the effect anticipated. A country cannot be killed by a simple decree ordering it to die; and, though the name of Poland may no longer be used in Russian official documents, the territory inhabited by the Poles will continue to be Polish. It was remarked some two or three years ago, when the insurrection which terminated so fatally was on the point of breaking out, that, though nearly a century had elapsed since the first dismemberment, Poland was more united in feeling and more truly national than she had ever been before. Polish nationality has resisted divisions and subdivisions of territory among foreign invaders; it has resisted massacres, confiscations, and cruel measures of all kinds. Indeed, the principal effect of this persecution has been to fortify the national spirit. A moral revival has been brought about by the destruction of the country in a political sense; and though it would be very difficult indeed to point out how Poland can ever again become an independent State, yet to conclude that it has received its death-blow because the official journal of the empire has published a ukase commanding it to adopt the Russian language would be more than premature. If the Germans, with their superior civilisation, have been unable to Germanise those portions of Poland which have fallen to their lot, we may be quite sure that the "Muscovites" will not succeed in turning Warsaw into a Russian city. This reflection will not, perhaps, be very consoling to the Poles; but it is a fact that, as long as they retain a separate civilisation, it will be vain to direct them to adopt this or that tongue. They will continue to speak the language of their ancient national literature.

According to that detestable paper *Le Nord*, the English Government has addressed a formal protest to Russia on the occasion of this flagrant breach of the Treaty of 1815. This

(always according to *Le Nord*) would be in contravention of those principles of "non-intervention" which our enemies everywhere would like us to hold. But Earl Russell has explained over and over again—in speeches delivered in the House of Lords and in the excellent preface to the last edition of his work on the English Constitution—that the so-called doctrine of "non-intervention" means very little indeed. It signifies that we disapprove of interference on the part of a foreign Power between a Sovereign and his subjects. Canning, who first sounded the praises of "non-intervention," never could have dreamed that the term would be used as negating the right of one Power to interfere, under no matter what circumstances, in a quarrel between two other Powers. In the case of Poland we have the right to call upon Russia to fulfil certain stipulations contained in a treaty of the highest importance. We are not bound to do so; but about our right there can be no question. Here it matters not that the quarrel is one between a Sovereign and his subjects; for certain rights were expressly guaranteed to those subjects by a treaty to which England was a party. A simple protest can do no harm; and it concerns our interest as well as our honour not to allow an agreement bearing our signature to be violated without at least saying that we object to the proceeding.

## SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

HER MAJESTY will open Parliament in person, and with the same pomp as last year.

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF WALES has signified his intention of presiding at the annual meeting of the Royal National Life-boat Institution, to be held next month.

EARL AND COUNTESS RUSSELL and Lady Georgiana Russell are among the arrivals of the English nobility at Cannes. The noble Earl and Countess intend to make a short stay in Paris on their way home for the meeting of Parliament.

THE DUKE AND DUCHESS OF ARGYLL and family are expected to return home from their tour in Italy the week preceding the opening of Parliament.

MR. GLADSTONE is expected to be in Paris on Jan. 23, on his return from Florence.

THE ARCHBISHOP OF YORK has resigned his office on account of advancing years.

RAJAH SIR JAMES BROOKE, who was recently attacked by paralysis, is much better. Sir James is considered, indeed, to be regaining health.

THE VERY REV. MICHAEL KIERAN is about to be consecrated Roman Catholic Archbishop and Primate in Ireland, in succession to Dr. Dixon, lately deceased.

SIR CHARLES MURRAY, the British Minister at Copenhagen, has received from the Danish Government four letters written by Lord Bacon to King Christian IV. in 1620-1, and has transmitted them to Lord Stanley.

THE DUKE OF SUTHERLAND has caused notice to be given to his tenantry on the Trentham estate, in North Staffordshire, that such of them as suffered loss by the cattle plague before the compensation clauses of the Cattle Plague Act came into operation will have the half of such losses made good at the expense of his Grace.

THE DAMAGE TO THE PLYMOUTH BREAKWATER by the recent gales is estimated at £40,000.

THE LIVERPOOL TOWN COUNCIL have just voted £3000 for the erection of a Reformatory.

MR. ANDREW HALLIDAY is writing a comedy for the Strand Theatre.

THE ENTIRE STRENGTH OF THE ARMY IN IRELAND at present is 24,700, officers and men.

A HEAVY FALL OF SNOW than has been known for thirteen years has occurred in the north of Scotland. The railways were blocked, and the mails detained for several days. The various lines are now once more open.

A MARRIAGE IS ARRANGED BETWEEN COLONEL THE HON. FREDERICK AUGUSTUS THESIGER, of the 95th Regiment, eldest son of the Lord Chancellor, and Miss Heath, daughter of Major-General J. C. Heath, commanding the Scinde division, Bombay.

THE EARL OF DERBY will give a Parliamentary banquet on Monday, Feb. 4; and on the same day the Chancellor of the Exchequer will have a dinner-party at his house at Grosvenor-gate, at which most of the principal supporters of the Government in the House of Commons will be present.

MRS. VYSE, who murdered two of her children some years ago and was acquitted on the ground of insanity, has just received her Majesty's free pardon, and has returned to her family in a state of perfect health.

ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL RAILWAY COMPANIES has recently paid as high an interest as 14 per cent per annum for a temporary loan to enable it to meet debentures falling due.

SEVERAL SHOCKS OF AN EARTHQUAKE, which lasted some seconds, were felt at Spa, in Belgium, towards noon on the 2nd inst.—the day of the great earthquake in Algeria.

A DECISION OF THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES has been published declaring trials by military commission where martial law is not in force to be illegal.

MR. RAVENSHAW, Commissioner of Orissa, has sent home a report on the famine, which, it is said, admits the deaths of 600,000 before July last, and states that in many places three fourths of the population have perished.

MR. SEYMOUR FITZGERALD was on Monday presented with his portrait by some of his admirers at Horsham. He took advantage of the opportunity to allude to his political services to the borough, and to ask that when he returned from the governorship of Bombay he might be again returned as member for the borough.

RIFLES CONVERTED TO BREACH-LOADERS ON THE SNIDER SYSTEM are about to be issued to the troops at Aldershot. Instructions have been issued to the infantry regiments in camp to send requisitions to the Military Store Department for the number of rifles they require.

MARGARET HARRISON, the wife of a labouring man residing at Aintree, was, on the 6th inst., confined of three children (two boys and a girl). Her Majesty the Queen has caused the Royal bounty to be forwarded to the Rev. W. H. Vernon on Mrs. Harrison's behalf.

THE HACKNEY COACH PROPRIETORS OF NEWCASTLE resolved at a meeting held on Thursday week to withdraw their cabs from plying for hire. This resolution has been adopted in consequence of a new law just passed by the Town Council enforcing a reduction of the fares.

THE *Lancet* has entered upon an investigation of the causes which have brought about the present unsatisfactory sanitary condition of the mercantile marine. In the two reports already published on this subject our contemporary discusses the influence of food and drink on the health of the sailors, and other topics will be dealt with subsequently.

CARGOES OF WHEAT are now arriving at the principal American Atlantic seaports from California, the freight being less than the cost of transport of wheat by railroad from Chicago; so that California wheat successfully competes in New York and Philadelphia with that grown in the Mississippi Valley.

MESSRS. GRINDLAY AND CO. publish the following telegram, for which they had to pay £5 is., as a further specimen of Indian telegraphy:—" (By British and Irish Magnetic Telegraph.) From Grindlay, Calcutta, Jan. 3, 5.5 p.m. 'Decor lucko appointy to fialo come out this season if possible.'"

A STRIKE AMONG THE COLLIERIES in Ashton-under-Lyne and the neighbouring districts commenced on Saturday. Nearly 2500 miners, belonging to the union, have ceased work, their demand for an advance of twopenny in the shilling having been refused by the employers.

NICE JUST NOW REPRESENTS an epitome of the "great globe itself." On the first inst. its foreign population consisted of 123 Germans, 200 Americans, 486 English, 3 Brazilians, 16 Belgians, 7 Danes, 11 Spaniards, 415 French, 2 Greeks, 8 Dutch, 1 Hungarian, 42 Italians, 7 Moldo-Wallachians, 8 Turks, 11 Poles, 130 Russians, 5 Swedes, 21 Swiss—altogether, 1435.

A SCHEME has been started at Darlington, which appears to have the sanction of the iron-workers of the district, and is principally under their management, to erect rolling-mills on the co-operative principle.

EIGHTY-TWO SOUTH LONDON TRADESMEN were fined for having in their possession unjust weights, scales, or measures, at Newington Sessions last week. The list comprised ten licensed victuallers and beer retailers, eleven bakers, eighteen chandlers, thirteen butchers, ten greengrocers, and coaldealers, fourteen grocers and cheesemongers, two oilmen, one confectioner, one fishmonger, one eating-house keeper, and one cornchandler. The fines inflicted amounted in the total to £157 15s.

A MARRIAGE, it is rumoured, will shortly take place between the Count of Flanders and a Princess of the house of Hohenzollern.

HER MAJESTY'S SHIP *DALHOUSIE* has struck on the wreck of the *Die Vernon*, at Ali Baug. She is much damaged, and was full of water when taken into dock.

MR. GEORGE BAXTER, the inventor and patentee of oil-colour picture printing, died the other day. The deceased gentleman was sixty-two years of age. Some time ago he met with an accident, which proved the remote cause of the attack of apoplexy from which he died.

THE BISHOP OF EXETER, it is currently reported in the diocese, is about to resign his bishopric on account of his great age, and that the Hon. Archdeacon Harris, a brother of the Earl of Malmesbury, is likely to have the appointment.

A CONSERVATIVE CONTEMPORARY says that the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne, at the opening of Parliament, is to be moved by Viscount Holmesdale and seconded by Mr. Graves, one of the members for Liverpool.

GREAT BRITAIN has 1,771,493 volumes in its public and large private libraries, or six to every 100 persons in its population; Italy has 4,149,281, or 19½ to every 100 persons; France has 4,389,000, or 11·7 to each 100 persons; Austria, 2,408,000, or 69 per cent; Prussia, 2,040,450, or 11 per cent; Russia, 582,090, or 1·1-3 per cent; Bavaria, 1,268,500, or 26½ per cent; and Belgium, 509,100, or 10½ per cent.

THE MONT CENIS TUNNEL had been excavated on the 31st of December last to the extent of 6374 metres, being 2434 on the Genoese or French side, and 3940 on the side of Bardonnèche. Of these 6374 metres, 1625 were excavated in 1866. The whole length of the tunnel is estimated at 12,220 metres, so that more than half has been done, and 5845 remain.

AN INFLUENTIAL DEPUTATION waited upon the Chancellor of the Exchequer at his official residence in Downing-street, on Tuesday, for the purpose of urging the necessity of something being done towards reducing, if not abolishing, the malt duty. The usual arguments were most effectively urged; and the Chancellor of the Exchequer promised the deputation that the subject should have his most earnest attention.

IN NEW ZEALAND, as fast as new cereals and root crops are planted, the worms and insects that blight and destroy them are found alive and at work, although such worms and insects were never seen in the colony before. The eggs and grubs of these destructive creatures are introduced into the colony with the seed. The New Zealand colonists are now paying 20s. a head for every British insectivorous bird that is landed alive in the colony.

HER MAJESTY having been pleased to forward to the Bishop of London the sum of £200, to be distributed during this inclement season among some of the different refuges for the homeless poor in London, his Lordship has thus apportioned her Majesty's gift:—Refuge for Homeless Children, 19, Broad-street, Bloomsbury, £50; Field-lane Institution, £50; Refuge Fund of the Reformatory and Refuge Union, 2A, New-street, £50; Newport-market Night Refuge, Soho, £50.

THE PARIS *Pays* tells its readers, among other things, that an English clergyman receives for internments dues proportionate to the succession, and that the poorest living in England is worth £400 per annum; that the revenue from tithes is estimated at £2,000,000; that an English citizen who wishes to establish a newspaper must deposit a sum of money as a guarantee for the advertisement duty; that the stamp duty gives a revenue of £3,600,000 to the State, and the tax on paper about £800,000.

THE EDINBURGH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE have resolved to memorialise the Postmaster-General for a reduction of the scale of charges in money-orders, in order to afford greater facilities for the transmission of small sums through the Post Office, and to discourage the sending of coins, bank-notes, and postage-stamps in letters. It was resolved to petition Parliament and memorialise Government, praying that arrangements should be made for the transmission of telegrams through the Post Office at low, uniform rates, and that the system include all places where there are any money-order offices.

## THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

As soon as the news that Horsham had rejected Mr. Seymour Fitzgerald reached the clubs, it was said by all the club world, "Oh! it is not of much consequence. The Conservative party cannot do without him, and the first vacant seat which the Earl of Derby can command will be presented to Mr. Fitzgerald." Indeed, unless I am misinformed, the Earl of Derby himself wrote to the late member for Horsham to this effect; but though the Earl of Derby's intentions were good, his power was small. The truth is that the Conservative party, *quid* a party, has very few seats at its command. The Whig party has not many, but the Conservative has scarcely any. And so it happened that, though the decisions by Parliamentary Committees made a good many vacancies, no seat could be found for Mr. Fitzgerald; and when the Derby Government had to be formed, the services of one of the ablest of Disraeli's aide-de-camps in the House of Commons could not be made available. This, I have no doubt, was a great mortification to the Conservative leader, especially knowing, as he did, that Sir Hugh Cairns, an equally valuable debater, must of necessity be removed to the judicial Bench. But, if Mr. Fitzgerald's absence from Parliament was vexatious to the Conservative leader, it was more so to Mr. Fitzgerald himself. He is an ambitious man. For seven long years he had been steadily working for the highest prize which an English county gentleman can hope to obtain—viz., a seat in the Cabinet; and, unluckily, when the harvest was ripe and ready to be reaped, he was out of the way. His mortification must have been very poignant; and all the more so when he recollected how small was the majority which deprived him of the prize—only 5. If but three Horshamites who voted against him had voted for him, he would have still been member for Horsham, and, almost to a certainty, a Cabinet Minister. But it could not be helped. Three men's voices had as effectually stopped his career as a hundred could have done. But is he, then, to have no reward for his services? Is he, after so long battling gallantly with the storm, to be left stranded high and dry—without help? Certainly not. Everybody said that this must not be. "Our fellows must do something for Fitzgerald," was a remark which one was constantly hearing. But the question was, what that something should be? And I have no doubt that this question perplexed the Earl of Derby not a little. He could not make Mr. Fitzgerald a judge, for though he is a barrister he is not of sufficient eminence at the bar to justify the Premier in raising him to the bench; and as to a commissioner-ship, with a salary of some £1000 or £1200 a year, he would hardly be induced to accept such a trifle. These trifles are flung to junior whips and such like underlings. Mr. Fitzgerald would deem himself insulted by the offer of anything so small. But time flowed on, and nothing came, nor were there any signs of any really good thing on the road. At last, however, Fortune, by a jerk of her wheel, placed a capital prize in the hands of the Premier. Sir Bartle Frere, the Governor of Bombay, resigned, and at once the offer of the place was made to Mr. Fitzgerald. One wonders how he felt when he opened the letter containing the offer. It is said of a certain Bishop that when he got a letter from Lord Palmerston offering him an archbishopric he jumped about the room in so frantic a manner that his poor wife thought that he was demented, and was about to send post haste for the doctor. Mr. Fitzgerald, though albeit he has Irish blood in his veins, is not so excitable as this English Archbishop. Still, he must have felt a glow of satisfaction as he read the letter, for it is a noble position, this governorship of Bombay, with a salary of £7000 a year, and, if I mistake not, all household expenses paid. Mr. Fitzgerald, so far from being over excited, rather hesitated at first; but this was only a little decent prudery, which may be likened to the said Archbishop's—*nolo Episcopari*. Everybody knew that he would close with the offer. Some cynical reader may ask whether Mr. Fitzgerald has shown any special aptitude for governing an Indian presidency. Well, perhaps not. But what has that to do with it? Here is a man wants and deserves a place, and here is a place for him. That is the logic of party when these high positions have to be filled. For lower positions men have to compete, but not for the great prizes; that would never do. Know this, Mr. Cynic, that all men of a certain rank, and with sufficient influence, are considered to be born—not made—for place. It is only the *profanum vulgus* who have no position that are deemed to be not born, but to be made. True, Mr. Bright, in a noble speech which he delivered in the House of Commons in 1858, said on this subject of the appointment of Indian Governors—"These appointments should not be rewards for old men simply because such men have done good service in their prime, nor should they be rewards for mere party services, but they should be appointments given under a feeling that interests of the very highest moment connected with the country depend on



those offices in India being properly filled up." And speaking of another Indian office he said:—"If any Prime Minister appoint an inefficient man, he will be a traitor to the Throne of England." But then, you know, Mr. Bright is an extreme man. Mr. Fitzgerald is to go by the usual route to Suez, but there a special steamer is to meet him, and run him down the coast to Zanzibar, that he may make some inquiries about those poor, ill-fated Abyssinian prisoners, and thence he will go straight across to Bombay.

Last week I commented upon a piece of news given us by the *Army and Navy Gazette* that the Chief Constructor of the Navy's salary is to be raised. I was weatherbound when I wrote the comment, and could not get off to make inquiries, as my manner is when important rumours reach me, and therefore I took for granted that the news was true. I have, however, now reason to believe that it is not. Mr. Reed is working harmoniously with the Board, and that something will be done to reward him for his services I have no doubt; but at present I think that the Board has not formally resolved that the salary shall be raised. Many years ago, when I was at Portsmouth, I took the opportunity afforded me to inspect the Crimean gun-boats laid up at Haslar, and subsequently described them in your Paper. They were even then fast going to decay, and I suppose by this time must be quite rotten and useless; but their engines are as good as ever, and these are now to be utilised in driving a fleet of iron gun-boats which, acting on the advice of the Chief Constructor, the Admiralty has ordered to be built.

The event of the week—generally a very dull week in the political world—is the meeting of the Brighton electors and their members. Both Mr. White and Professor Fawcett were present, and both delivered admirable speeches. Mr. White's speech was simply one of the most vigorous, racy, argumentative, and generally effective extra-Parliamentary bits of oratory that we have had during the vacation. That, though, is perhaps not saying much; for, except the speeches of Mr. Bright and the one delivered at Dublin by The O'Donoghue, and perhaps two or three more, the vacation speeches of members have been unusually wordy and weak. Nor is this surprising; for, in truth, most of our politicians, by the events of last Session, have been turned all adrift, without compass in the binnacle, with a sky above them all dark and starless, and no lights on board the flagship to guide them. The Conservatives cannot advocate Reform, because they may probably be called upon to vote against all Reform. They dare not denounce Reform, because they may be obliged to swallow all they say and support a Reform bill. Neither are the Whigs in much better plight. They, too, are all abroad. They know what they did support last Session; but the future is utterly dark; and as to the Adullamites—

Nor Whigs nor Tories they, nor this nor that,  
Nor birds nor beasts; but just a kind of bat—  
A twilight animal, true to neither cause,  
With Tory wings, but Whiggish teeth and claws—

they, too, are in much the same dilemma. It is curious, by-the-way, to note how the Whigs and Adullamites have in their uncertainty all agreed upon one phrase—viz., "If the Conservative Government bring forward a satisfactory reform bill, I shall feel myself bound to give it my support;" which is about as safe a thing to say as, "If the Pope gives up popery, I shall certainly side with the Pope." Mr. White is no trimmer. He always knows his principles, and knowing, is able to maintain. Well, of all politicians, I do like a man of this sort. But let not your readers imagine that Mr. White's speech is a mere denunciation of principles which he dislikes. It is far better than this—it is full of facts, strong in argument. A speech which I should like to say more about, but space fails; and I can only say this of it, it is a speech to be read, pondered, and studied; and that is more than I would say of 999 out of every 1000 speeches which have been delivered since speech-making was invented.

From a provincial contemporary I quote the following curious list of prizes lately distributed to the crack shots of the 19th Durham Volunteers:—One china tea-service, one silver Albert chain, one Britannia metal teapot, one copper teakettle, one dozen cartes-de-visite, a scarf, a 2-foot rule, and a plumcake!

My old local literary acquaintance, with the alliterative title, the *Hornsey Hornet*, to which I called attention nearly twelve months ago, is still, I am glad to find, to the fore, and seemingly as vigilant as ever in spying out and denouncing parish abuses. The local Bumbles are made to feel the *Hornet's* sting pretty smartly, and I should think heartily wish the troublesome insect banished "besouth Megellan." I have before me the first number of the *Hornet's* second volume; and, if the picture of Hornsey therein drawn be accurate, that parish must be anything but a paradise to live in; the editor of the *Hornet* has plenty of work before him in advocating reforms. The general literary excellence of this spirited local journal is well sustained, though faults might be picked here and there. For instance, the article entitled "In Durance Vile"—the appropriateness of which title, by-the-by, is not quite apparent—contains some rather slipshod sentences and awkward tautologies, which might easily have been avoided. A little more care, Mr. *Hornet*; verbum sap.

I dropped in at the Architectural Society's Gallery in Conduit-street the other day to see Mr. W. Cave Thomas's new altarpiece for Christ Church, Marylebone. In shape it is the segment of a circle, the arc being long and low; so that I imagine it is intended for a top compartment—over the Commandments, Creed, and Lord's Prayer, possibly. The subject Mr. Thomas has chosen is the mission to earth by the ascended Saviour of various blessings, typified by angels. I cannot say that I can quite distinguish what they are intended to represent in every case; and that not so much on account of the abstruseness, as because of the somewhat commonplace nature of the allegory. For instance, an angel with a sword may be Justice, of Mercy, or Truth. However, the composition is clever and the drawing sound; and, despite a too great similarity in the faces, I think the picture will look well when in its place. As at present placed, its effect can hardly be realised. The principal figure is dignified and the drapery well composed, but I question the propriety of the brooch.

The Society of British Artists has issued a notice, which I am glad to see, for it betokens increasing vitality in the management, which is most desirable now that the British Institution is about to close. The Suffolk-street Society is going to give two rooms for the exhibition of water-colour drawings, the specialty of our English school, and one for which such an opportunity is needed, since the water-colour galleries, even in cases where they are supposed to be open to all, are very exclusive. The British Artists now number some of the most distinguished among our younger painters, and the fillip which has been given to the council in the matter I allude to is doubtless due to the young blood.

A new process of photography is, I believe, on the eve of production by the "Wothlytype" Company in Regent-street. The specimen I saw was remarkably good, the effect being to give a roundness and solidity not usual in sun pictures. The process has the advantage of being absolutely permanent; but we shall probably hear more of it shortly.

I have just seen a series of four beautiful portraits of members of the Royal family, lately photographed from life, at Balmoral, by Messrs. W. and D. Downey, and published by Messrs. A. Marion, Son, and Co., of London. This series includes her Majesty the Queen, the Princess of Wales, Princess Louisa, and Princess Beatrice. The execution of these portraits is in all respects excellent; and her Majesty's loyal subjects need not be without portraits of the members of the Royal family mentioned when such large and handsome ones as these can be procured for the paltry cost of five shillings each.

#### THE LITERARY LOUNGER.

##### THE MAGAZINES.

The *British Quarterly* is admirable in its longer articles, as it always is, but is still more admirable in its shorter notices of books. These are among the most careful, kind, and discriminating that I know. The article upon "Shakespeare in Domestic Life" is not satisfactory—in tone, I mean. Mr. Gerald Massey's Sonnet Theory

may be right or wrong; but one thing is certain—to approach any question whatever with a foregone conclusion in the mind is *not* the way to arrive at the truth. And even a foregone wish, so to speak, is a bad thing too. In plain fact, the presumption from Shakespeare's plays and the other poems, not sonnets, is of the same kind as the presumption from Goethe's "Faust"—viz., that the author was a complete man of the world, acquainted, by having shared in them, with most forms of human wrong-doing, and not by any means the paragon that some people insist upon making him out to be. There is plenty of good, thoughtful, informing, and, in the high sense, "suggestive" reading in the remainder of this number of the Review. Ritualism, China, Froude's Reign of Elizabeth, the late Archbishop Whately, George Eliot, Bishop Cotton, Reform, America since the War—these are interesting topics, well handled. The author of the article on George Eliot answers indirectly some of the criticisms on that great writer in the *North British*; but he does not satisfy me in some particulars. For example, he has not even touched the heart of the question of George Eliot's humour—it has vistas of which it is safe to say he has not caught even a glimpse; for if he had, he would assuredly have shown it. Again, I dare to affirm that he is utterly wrong in saying that the old aunt scenes in the "Mill on the Floss" are overdrawn and monotonous. To me they have given hours and hours of rapture, positive rapture. I know—for good reasons I know—the pictures are true ones. And to say that they are in the least dull or tiring, is to disclose by a touch that the subject of George Eliot's humour has not been seen into by the writer. It has not, and I am sorry for him; for, with all his real and fine discernment, he has missed a choice treat; and nothing can help him. It is a case of colour-blindness, and there is an end. But the bulk of the criticism of this reviewer is, in my opinion, excellent. I think, however, George Eliot's morality in making Adam Bede forgive Arthur Donnithorne is far higher than his. Arthur was a scapegrace, not a villain; one of those men who do not "look before and after." It is very odd, too, that no critic seems to do that farewell letter of his to Hetty full justice. The man was "cruel, to be kind," and simply told the girl where she would find him in case of need. By-the-by, too, if we are not expected (as this critic says) to care more for Hetty than if she were a china image broken by a fall, why should Arthur be utterly sacrificed? A miserable, broken life he had, and what his heart and soul wanted when he came back was the blessed dew of pardon from the man whom he had most deeply wronged. It must be remembered that the marriage with Dinah had buried much—it must have been so—and I think Adam would have been wrong before God and men too, if he had not considered the soul of this broken brother and made him feel pardoned. I entirely disagree, too, with what this writer says about Dinah's relations with Adam from first to last. I greatly admire that very part of the book, and am prepared to defend it in detail. As to the charge of "voluptuousness," this critic seems disposed to go right, and reject it if he is left to himself; but he talks of people whose instinctive feelings on the subject are the other way, and are charged with almost the force of authority to his mind! As if there could possibly be any universal rule upon such a subject! For my part, I never thought of the thing till the *North British* put it into my head. And I undertake to say that anyone whose instinctive judgment confirms the *North British* belongs to one of three classes of people:—1. Men of the world, in the bad sense. 2. Persons of considerable conscious animalism, however repressed. 3. Persons of sickly, or languid, thin natures deficient in grasp of the facts of life; rather fond of having rotten apples in their drawers, as Schiller was (a metaphor which I have not space to enlarge upon). There is one other matter which this very kind and able critic has not got to the bottom of—namely, George Eliot's use of Christian and quasi-Christian topics and phraseology in her novels. In the meanwhile, I respect and admire his reticence.

Once a Week for January contains a beautiful illustration by the late Paul Gray, so nice that I beg to call particular attention to it. The writer of the very vulgar article "Amusement on the Cheap," should have omitted all reference to the house of the proprietor of the Cabinet Theatre.

I have, again, not space to call the attention of men of letters to one or two interesting new topics raised by the Duke of Argyll in the "Reign of Law." But the topics are of such deep importance that I shall probably revert to them at another opportunity.

#### THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

Mr. Burnand's burlesque, "Guy Fawkes," at the STRAND THEATRE, is just about as good, and as bad, as his "Black-Eyed Susan" at the Royalty. As a literary achievement, it does not stand high in the scale of Mr. Burnand's successes; as a dramatic venture, it will probably prove as valuable to the management as any that he has written, and this notwithstanding the fact that it is very badly played by two or three of the leading members of the company. The piece is full of bustle and broad absurdity, and the songs are well chosen; but I am bound to say that it is altogether much more like a pantomime "opening" than a burlesque. Miss Swanborough walks through the part of Lord Mountague, missing most of her "points" and appearing to look upon the part as quite beneath her notice. Mr. James plays Guy Fawkes with great spirit, but he should cure himself of a detestable habit into which he has fallen of "gagging" to the gallery. Such interpolations as "Don't make no blooming error!" and "S'help me taters!" serve, no doubt, to raise a laugh among the gods; but Mr. James only hears those who do laugh—he doesn't hear those who don't laugh have to say about it. The piece is well put upon the stage; the scenery, by Mr. Fenton, is good; and Mr. Thorne, Mr. F. Robson, and Miss Jonstone, may be mentioned as having contributed largely to the success of the piece. Mr. H. J. Turner may not.

Mr. Byron's "Pandora's Box," at the PRINCE OF WALES'S, is admirably written; but I am afraid that he has devoted too much attention to neatness of epigram to please a modern burlesque audience. Some of the speeches in "Pandora," as in "Der Freischütz," are written in a masterly style, but they fall dead upon the ears of an audience that looks upon a pun or play upon words in every other line as an absolute right. Mr. Clarke plays Juno (he is almost the only man upon the stage who can play a woman's part without making it repulsive), and embodies the affection of an elderly flirt in a really artistic manner. Miss Foote's Minerva, Miss Maitland's Venus, and Miss Hodson's Prometheus, are all as good as could be desired. Mr. Montgomery played Prometheus's weak-minded brother, Epimetheus, with his usual quaintness. The burlesque is beautifully placed upon the stage, and "plays" only about an hour.

I can't say that I see much to admire in Mr. Fechter's unacknowledged adaptation of "Thirty Years of a Gambler's Life" at the LYCEUM. The piece is much too conventionally melodramatic for modern taste; and of the three principal male characters (for two of whom, I suppose, the sympathy of the audience is expected), two are utter villains, and the third a contemptible snob. It is written in the style popular at the Victoria fifteen years ago, and is deficient in telling dialogue and in intelligible construction. On the other hand, it abounds in "situations," and winds up with a very good house on fire. Mr. Fechter bounces through the three first acts in his usual dashing style. Every entry and exit that he makes is accompanied by a *fanfaronade* from the orchestra; but, to my thinking, his performance of an old man in the last two acts, which are supposed to take place twenty years after the third act, is infinitely more satisfactory as a work of art. Mr. Emery played an uncompromising scoundrel better than perhaps any one else on the stage could play it; but the part is roughly written, and is too thoroughly conventional for even Mr. Emery to make anything very striking out of it. Mr. Cowper played a mean-spirited lover, who is cut out by Maurice (Mr. Fechter), and who follows Maurice about in order to discover and report to Maurice's intended bride anything that may turn up to his disadvantage. The part was so bad that Mr. Cowper could make nothing of it. Miss Carlotta Leclercq played Pauline, the heroine, with taste; and I must not forget to mention Mr. Moreland and Mr. D. Evans, who played, respectively, an old steward and a German innkeeper, with much

credit to themselves. The piece is handsomely mounted, but not so elaborately as to justify the long "waits" between the acts. The scene of the fire is capitally managed.

In pursuance of my habit of paying an occasional visit to the East-End theatres, I stumbled into the ROYAL GRECIAN (better known as the Eagle, City-road) the other evening, and there witnessed a very creditable performance indeed, all things considered. The pantomime, of course, is the great feature in the programme at this season. The piece, which is the joint production of Mr. George Conquest and Mr. H. Spry, and in the opening contains some very "palpable hits" at the events and follies of the day, is entitled "The Devil on Two Sticks; or, Harlequin, the Golden Tree, the Bird, the Golden Fish, or the Princess and Fairy Fancee"—a title the meaning of which is not easily discovered. But then that is a common attribute of pantomime titles. The best scenes of the opening are those in which his Satanic Majesty on two sticks (Mr. George Conquest) is the principal performer; for his feats, as might be expected, are wonderful exceedingly, and very well managed withal. Of the other performers it is sufficient to say that they acquitted themselves apparently to the entire satisfaction of the audience, who applauded often and heartily. That same audience, by-the-way, was not the least interesting part of the exhibition. Though evidently composed mainly of artisans and other working men and their families, there was not a trace of the "rough" element visible; perfect order, attention to, and appreciation of, the performance, civility, and a disposition to be accommodating among themselves, distinguished that densely-packed crowd, of whose demeanour I took special note, as being much more interesting to me than any stage display—*blasé* in such matters as I am—could possibly be. There was also everywhere apparent an air of comfortable well-to-doishness, which I was specially pleased to see. The harlequinade was of the usual character, the only notable thing being that the Harlequin was somewhat more fat than Harlequin becoms, and had, consequently, some difficulty "in taking his jumps" with agility and ease. On the whole, however, I was much pleased with what I saw at the "Eagle;" though, of course, if I were inclined to be censorious, I could find plenty of things at which to cavil. But where could cynicism not do the same?

I regret to observe that the London theatrical managers have recommenced the war against the proprietors of music-halls, and are making renewed efforts to suppress what they call "stage-plays" at the last-named establishments. Summonses were applied for and obtained, on Wednesday, against Mr. Strange, of the Alhambra, and Messrs. Loibl and Sonnhammer, of the London Pavilion—the former in respect of a ballet called "Where's the Police?" and the latter in consequence of performing a piece entitled "King Confuzlem-bang." The proprietor of the Raglan music-hall is also to be prosecuted, I see. I had hoped that lack of success in past efforts, the decided and almost unanimous expression of public opinion through the newspapers, and the report of the House of Commons Committee, would have satisfied the theatre managers of the futility, the injustice, and the short-sightedness of such proceedings. But some people seem impervious to common-sense, and incapable of understanding their own interests, to say nothing of "doing as they would wish to be done by" to their neighbours. To be sure, the exhibitions at some music-halls are exceedingly "idiotic," as my friend, Mr. James Greenwood, has repeatedly shown; but then, the same may be said of the performances at some theatres also. Besides, it is not against the music-halls with "idiotic," but those with the best programmes, that the managers war. The inference is obvious.

THE STRAND UNION GUARDIANS have refused to appoint a resident medical officer or to give additional medical aid in their workhouse, though recommended to do so by the Poor-Law Board. As it was some time since officially declared that the Poor-Law Board had power by the present law to enforce its wishes, the delay, in this as well as in similar cases, by London guardians is regarded with some interest, and the course to be taken by the Poor-Law Board is looked for with some anxiety, as thereby the respective powers of guardians and the central authority will be ascertained.

PROFIT ON MILK.—In a compensation case, "Scott v. The Metropolitan District Railway," heard on Friday before Mr. Humphreys, the Middlesex Coroner, some evidence was given on the profit made on milk. The claimant lived at Brompton, and his profits were from 34d. to 4d. per quart. He served the highest class. He admitted that he put some water to it, and said his customers liked water with their milk. His profits were £500 a year. Mr. Coleridge, Q.C., and Mr. Gibbons were for the claimant; Mr. Hollway for the company. The jury gave £650 as compensation.

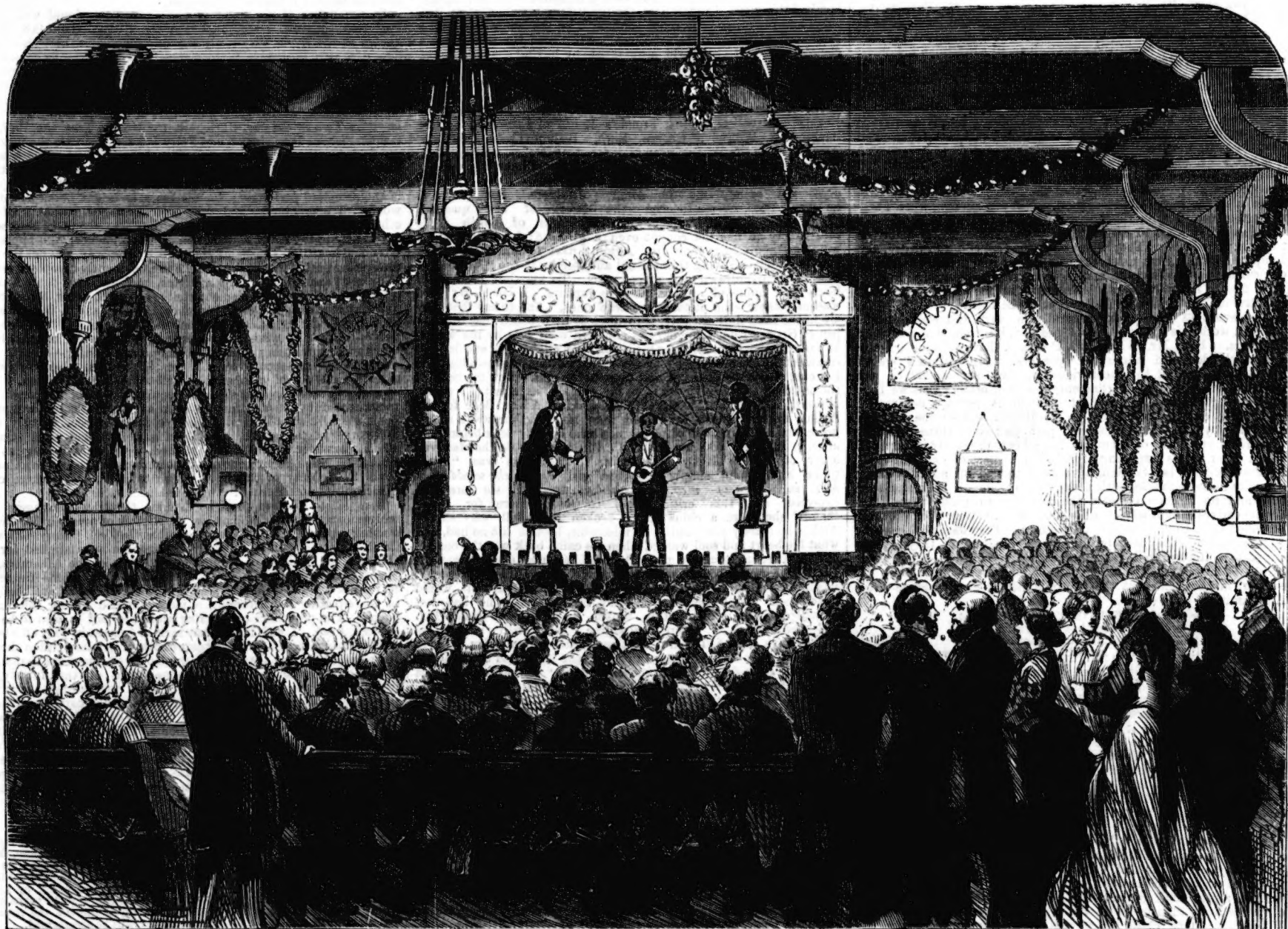
PROBABLE MINISTERIAL MEASURES.—We understand that one of the earliest proposals of her Majesty's Ministers in the approaching Session will be for the appointment of a Committee to inquire into the working of the Bank Charter Act. The duty of the Committee will be not so much to consider the advisability of repealing the Act of 1844 as to discuss certain amendments that are deemed necessary for its improvement. Amongst these will be a proposition to relieve the Bank of its present power of issue, and to place it in the hands of the Government. Another important question that will be dealt with soon after the assembling of Parliament will be the health of the seamen of the mercantile marine; and we learn with pleasure that the President of the Poor-Law Board will early in the Session introduce a bill for the improvement of the administration of poor relief.—*Standard*.

THE PRIEST AND THE ARCHDEACON.—An account is given by Archdeacon Gould in the Irish papers of a scene of an unusual character in which he was chief actor at Athes, a village upon his property, in the county of Limerick. A misunderstanding having arisen between the Archdeacon and the Roman Catholic Priest of the place, the Rev. Martin Ryan, to which the latter had made reference from the altar some days before, the Archdeacon walked from the Protestant parish church on Sunday, after service, into the chapel; and, the service there having just concluded, he advanced to the altar rails and begged Mr. Ryan's leave to make an explanation, adding, on his honour "as a clergyman and a gentleman, that he would not utter one word disrespectful to Mr. Ryan personally, or a syllable unsuited to the sacred character of the building." Mr. Ryan reminded him that it was a very unusual proceeding; but, having suffered him to proceed, Archdeacon Gould made his explanation and apology for the intrusion and retired. The people, his own tenantry, listened respectfully, and priest and parson separated good friends.

PAINFUL OCCURRENCE.—A shocking accident has just occurred at South Elmham, near Bungay, Suffolk. Miss Howlett, a young woman living with her mother at South Elmham, was engaged in hanging out linen in the garden, when she saw her brother Frederick Howlett standing with a double-barrelled gun in his hand, pointed towards her, at a distance of about twenty-five yards. She called to him and asked him what he was going to do. He made no reply, but immediately fired, and the contents of his gun struck her in the face, arm, and chest. She screamed and fell down, and was almost at the same moment struck in the face and ears with the contents of the second barrel. A boy employed on the premises as a servant, hearing the screams of the unfortunate young woman, ran to her assistance, and she was immediately carried into the house, and a messenger was dispatched to Bungay for Mr. Gurneys, who was in attendance as quickly as possible, and found the poor girl fearfully wounded, but perfectly sensible and able to speak. It is probable that she would have been killed on the spot had not the upper part of her person been protected by a thick woollen shawl. Her assailant, after committing the dreadful act, went into an adjoining wood, and afterwards walked home to Beccles, where he was immediately taken into custody. He appeared wholly unconscious of what he had done, and talked incoherently; he is understood to have repeatedly shown symptoms of insanity, and about nine years since he was an inmate of a lunatic asylum. He is a widower with four small children. Some hopes are entertained that Miss Howlett will recover.

THE PROPOSED REFORM LEAGUE DEMONSTRATION.—On Wednesday evening a meeting of delegates from the various London branches of the Reform League, with several delegates from trades, friendly, and temperance societies, called together by the council of the League, was held at the Cambridge Hall, Newman-street, Oxford-street, to make arrangements for the proposed demonstration to take place on Feb. 11 next. Mr. Edmond Beales, president of the league, occupied the chair, and said the immediate object of the meeting was to receive the co-operation of the trades and other societies in making the proposed demonstration as effective as possible. He hoped the trades would not feel they were called on to make too great a sacrifice in going out again so soon after their late demonstration. Mr. Mackay moved and Mr. Richardson seconded a resolution declaring it advisable that the trades, benefit, and temperance societies of the metropolis should co-operate with the council of the Reform League in making the Reform demonstration on Feb. 11 an effective one. Several of the delegates from the trades said they had not been duly appointed to pledge the co-operation of their trades, but were sent to watch and report the proceedings; while others said they came with full powers to act. After some remarks from Mr. Mantle, the resolution was put and agreed to. On the motion of Mr. G. Odger, a provisional committee of fifteen delegates was appointed to co-operate with the council of the League and to report to an adjourned meeting. The proceedings then terminated.



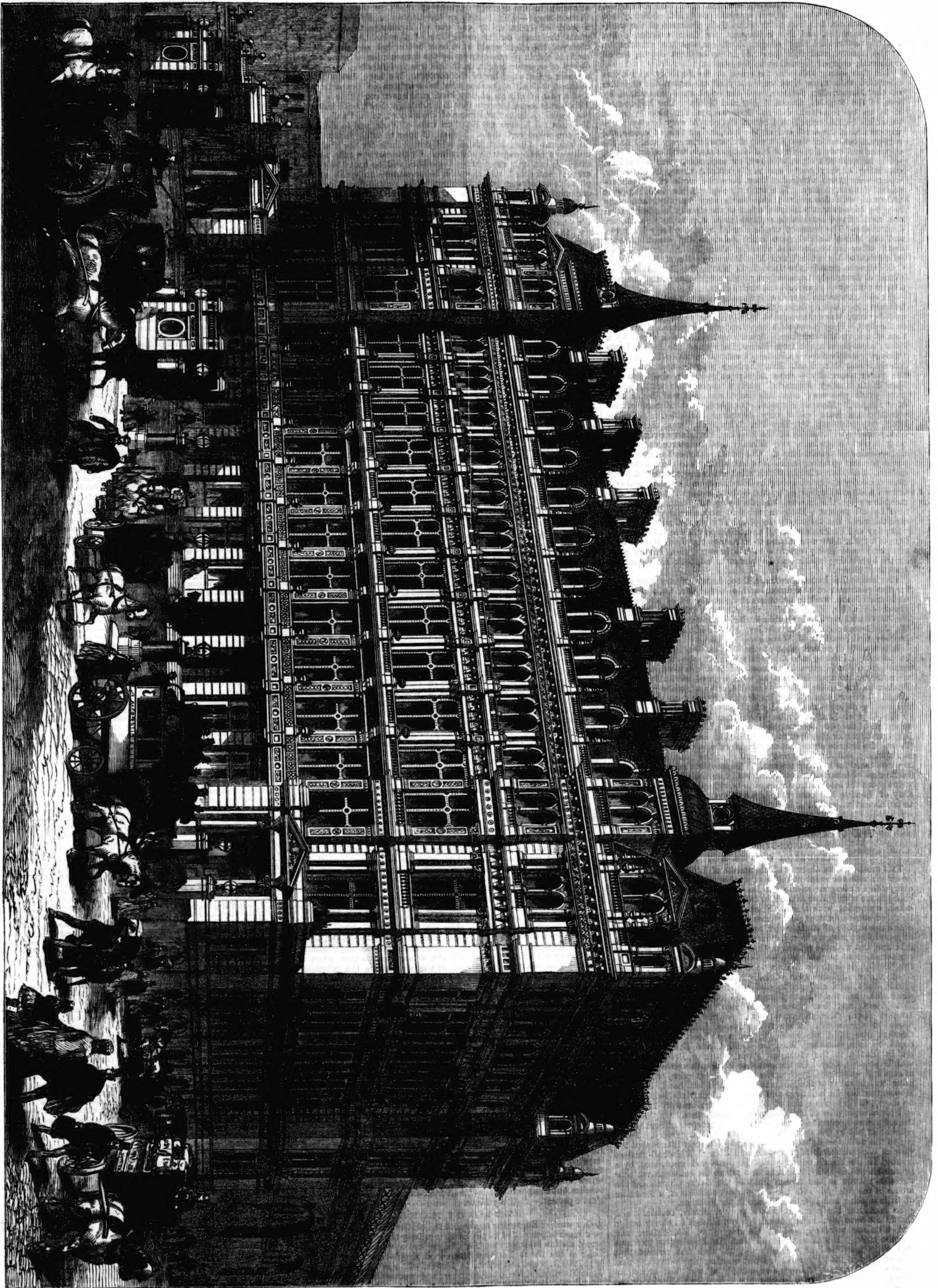


ENTERTAINMENT TO THE INMATES OF THE CITY OF LONDON UNION WORKHOUSE BOW-ROAD.



THE PLATFORM OF THE CANNON-STREET RAILWAY TERMINUS.





EXTERIOR OF THE CANNON-STREET RAILWAY TERMINUS AND HOTEL.



## NEW-YEAR'S ENTERTAINMENT AT THE CITY OF LONDON UNION.

THE annual entertainment given by the guardians of the City of London Union, at their own cost, to the inmates, took place on Thursday evening, last week, at the establishment in Bow-road. It was more than usually varied, and passed off in a manner exceedingly gratifying to those who organised it with so much care and trouble, and to those for whom it was specially designed. Scarcely too much praise can be given to Mr. John Gale, chairman of the workhouse committee, and his colleagues, for their exertions; but the highest reward they sought, doubtless, was the gratification of the inmates, and this they had in an eminent degree, for all apparently enjoyed themselves to the utmost.

The fine dining hall was the scene of the festivity, and it was decorated with more than customary effect, under the direction of the Master, Mr. Sanders, and the workhouse committee, by two of the inmates, named Ashby and Noble. The last-named, it is to be regretted, did not live to see the pleasing event to which he had contributed not a little. A very pretty stage was erected at the north end of the hall, and on this, of course, the performances, which were of a varied character, were given. At the opposite end were a couple of brilliant gas stars, with coloured rays, while between the eight windows, on each side, were medallions, consisting of very pretty and really artistic views, in distemper, which were much admired. They were the work of the above-named inmate, Ashby. The walls throughout the building were festooned with flowers and evergreens very prettily, and some hanging baskets lent additional effect to the already handsome open oak roof. Some seasonable mottoes gave a suitable finish to the decorations. The presence of the Lord Mayor, the Lady Mayoress, and the Misses Gabriel gave much éclat to the event. Among many other gentlemen who attended were Mr. Alderman Abbiss (chairman of the union) and Mrs. Downing; Mr. R. E. Warwick, C.C. (vice-chairman); the Rev. L. B. White, the Rev. A. G. How (Vicar of Bromley), the members of the workhouse committee, and a large number of guardians and their ladies.

Six o'clock was the hour fixed for the commencement of the entertainment, and shortly before that time the inmates (whose ordinary mid-day meal was supplemented by Christmas pudding) assembled in the hall. They presented a very happy appearance. The band then struck up the overture. Some vocal music was given by a choir; a couple of songs from Mdm. Pedley and the Infant Lotto followed; and then came a burlesque entertainment by Mdm. Amy Rosalind and Mr. Fred. Evans, whose singing and dancing—the latter especially—were highly enjoyed by the audience. Miss Ruth Stanley succeeded with a serio-comic song, which gave great pleasure; and this lady was followed by a trio of "niggers," Messrs. Harman, Campbell, and Elston, whose eccentricities were of a very diverting character. A cabalistic entertainment, by Herr Pin Whautkins, was then given. Next came the favourite of the evening, Mr. Harry Sydney, who sang several songs in a very effective and unobtrusive manner, and was cheered tremendously. One of these ditties had been composed for the occasion, and contained allusions to the master, the matron, and other officials, which elicited loud applause. A little more music by the band, a song by Miss Beatrice Bermond, and one or two additional effusions by Mr. Sydney, brought the entertainment to a close, the National Anthem being sung with great heartiness by all present. Between the first and second parts of the entertainment the inmates were plentifully regaled with cake and "Barclay and Perkins's entire;" and this interval was taken advantage of by Mr. Alderman Abbiss to introduce the Lord Mayor, who addressed some kindly remarks to the inmates, and, having concluded by wishing health and happiness to all, took his departure amid loud cheers.

Previous to the inmates retiring, three hearty cheers were given for the chairman of the union, and also for Mr. Gale and the members of the workhouse committee, nearly all of whom were present—viz., Mr. E. E. Ashby, vice-chairman; Mr. C. Beckwith, Mr. W. Clark, Mr. C. Craddock, Mr. J. Davidge, Mr. J. Finlay, Mr. J. Greenwood, Mr. K. Hardey, Mr. J. Hudson; Mr. M. J. Lindsey, C.C.; and Mr. J. Warman.

It is worthy of remark that of the 850 inmates, 700 were able to be present, including about seventy-five of the imbeciles, the remainder of the inmates being confined to the sick-wards. These were treated to such luxuries as were deemed advisable by Mr. Buncombe, the medical officer. One of the male inmates in the hall, named Morrison, attained his hundredth birthday on the 3rd inst. He was the object of much kindly interest.

The City of London Union Workhouse has been open for the reception of the poor about eighteen years. It is an extensive building, erected under the superintendence of the architect, Mr. Richard Tress. Its interior arrangements excel, perhaps, those of any other workhouse; and, by the great liberality of the guardians, the poor are well cared for in every respect. The provision made for the imbecile class of inmates meets with the admiration of everyone; and throughout the late controversies as to workhouse management the City of London has been found, what everyone would expect it to be, almost without fault in its provisions for the poor.

## THE RAILWAY TERMINUS AND HOTEL, CANNON-STREET, CITY.

### EXTERIOR OF THE HOTEL.

THE most careless observer of the streets of London cannot fail to be struck with the great changes of outline which the prospect has everywhere undergone within the last three or four years. These changes are mainly due to the new railway termini and the gigantic hotels connected with them. North, south, east, and west, the eye lights on some enormous pile, whose roofs and turrets rise sharply above the skyline of its humbler neighbours. The pre-eminence is at least lofty; it seems to say, "Here I am; look at me." We look, it is true, but with the reflection that what commands so much of our attention of necessity challenges our criticism. With regard to the termini, it is to us inconceivable how any company, board, direction, or agglomeration of individuals of any sort or station should have been suffered to disfigure the metropolis with such structures as the Charing-cross and Cannon-street termini. Time was, and but three years ago, when the view of London from the Thames was, beyond comparison, the finest in the world. From Westminster Bridge, looking east through the light suspension-bridge, the bend of the river could be seen, showing Waterloo Bridge, and Somerset House, and St. Paul's, in the distance. From Waterloo Bridge the view was, if possible, finer. On the east rose St. Paul's above a forest of towers and spires of City churches along the waterside, with bridge after bridge, as far as the Monument. On the left hand, Somerset House, the Temple buildings and gardens, Blackfriars Bridge (now no more), the graceful spans of Southwark, the brewery-buildings, and picturesque piles of irregularly-built warehouses. On the right, the lofty shot-tower and not over-interesting prospect of Southwark, relieved at last by the slender pinnacles of St. Mary Overy. Turning to the west, the light suspension-bridge scarcely interrupted the view of Westminster Bridge, Palace, and Abbey. Whitehall-gardens reached to the river's edge; quaint posterns and steps, used by a generation passed away, might be seen where the embankment now stretches; while in the foreground was the Savoy Church and the arches of the Adelphi. On the left another shot-tower, a foreshore of little interest, and Lambeth Palace in the distance.

So much for the past. It was a pretty picture, certainly, and should not have been lightly spoiled, even though a railway bridge and terminus were required at Charing-cross, Blackfriars, and Cannon-street. It was not enough that the Paddington terminus was elegant as well as commodious; it was not noticed that Waterloo answered its purpose without marring the prospect; that London Bridge station, though repeatedly altered, had accommodated its traffic without emulating the pyramid of Cheops or the Tower of Babel. All these examples, proving that on strictly utilitarian grounds these enormous roofs are not required, have been

ignored; the result is seen at the Charing-cross and Cannon-street termini. The necessity being disallowed, we regret the disfigurement, and repeat that it must have been but a careless exercise of power which permitted their existence in their present forms. The objections we have taken to the stations themselves by no means apply to the hotels to which they are attached, but with which they have no architectural affinity whatever. We propose to call attention to the leading features of the City Terminus Hotel, Cannon-street—such, indeed, as constitute the difference between a work of strict utility and one of artistic pretension. As regards the main outline or skyline of the building, it may be observed, the effect would have been better had any attempt been made to obtain picturesqueness by the introduction of some central object of superior height, or, if this was inadmissible, by raising a superior object at either of the corners. We have always held, in common with all authorities who have written on the picturesque, that a pair of objects of any kind can never constitute a group. This fact is so well known that it is almost useless to cite instances, but we will refer to the Houses of Parliament, to St. Paul's, to the Tuileries, the Louvre, the Hôtel de Ville of Paris, and to almost all our completed cathedrals. Indeed, it may be safely assumed that no amount of finish in detail will compensate for the absence of unity and picturesqueness of outline. Of the carriage entrances and exits, we can only say that we hope they will be found safe; they are yet unfinished, and it would be premature to speak of their probable appearance or convenience. The ground-floor story is, in our opinion, the best, as it is the plainest, in the whole building, and it is to be regretted that it should be succeeded by such elaborate decoration as encumbers that immediately over it. We have no desire to be hypercritical, but we fail to see the use or beauty of the immense quantity of ornament on the mullions of the windows on this floor; in fact, we see no more beauty in the rounded angles of the openings than in rounded corners to picture-frames. It is not by devices like this that an ill-proportioned window or a bad picture will be improved. We are far from saying, however, that the windows are in this instance badly proportioned; but we do not think the face of what is, after all, a mullion the situation for elaborate ornament. The decoration on the pilasters between the windows is in considerable profusion, and scarcely accords with the heavy trusses and balcony above, the piers and vases of which are plain to a fault. It is on parts like these that decoration should be concentrated, or rather used in excess; but the great fault of the building is that the decoration has been concentrated almost invariably in the wrong places: in short, the French remark concerning an over-dressed woman, *habillée mais non parée*, applies here with full significance. It has ever been held by the best architects that to produce a satisfactory result it is necessary to spread the decoration over the entire building in fitting proportion rather than concentrate it in a few spots. We trust we shall be understood when we say that this exemplified especially in the second floor, where everything is loaded with ornament, save and except the Corinthian columns, which, from not being fluted or dressed up in any way, look very poor and bald; and, while on the subject of columns, we may inquire why, considering that the ground floor is treated in what would pass for the Doric manner, and the second floor in the Corinthian style, the first or intermediate story is not allowed to assume some, at least, of the characteristic features of the graceful Ionic order? The present pilasters in this position are covered with ornament, but they are deficient in form, and consequently can never be satisfactory. Of the upper stories, the same fault of applying decoration in the wrong places is equally visible. The spandrels are delicately ornamented, but the coupled columns are left plain, which is to be regretted, as, owing to the proximity of the main cornice, the spandrels required less work than any other portion of the front. The main cornice is bold in its cove, good in profile, and original in design; but we must protest against the custom of using balustrades in connection with Mansard roofs. The two things cannot go properly together. To our mind, the whole beauty and spirit of a Mansard roof consists in its running down unbroken, visibly, to the eaves. In this case it is the more unfortunate, as the balustrade has not the prominence which would raise it into an important feature, while it is sufficiently obtrusive to mingle with the main cornice and mar its effect. The height to be given to a balustrade or parapet rising above the main cornice of any building is a subject requiring some care on the architect's part. It should in all cases be set on a plinth of such height as to be visible with a portion of its plinth from a reasonable and convenient distance—at such a point, for instance, as would be most advantageous for viewing the building generally. Where the situation is a street, the available points of view are known at once, and there cannot be the slightest difficulty in giving due proportion to the balustrade. The dormers and chimney-stacks are almost identical with those used at the Charing-cross Hotel. For our own part, we prefer the old French plan of making the chimneys very prominent, and carrying them up in mass, possibly panelling them, but never using small columns at the angles. The extreme ends of the front have most character; and, had the treatment of one differed essentially from that of the other as regards height, or even a less important respect, the effect would have been much better. Had the eastern or western clock-turret been omitted, or had either been greatly increased or diminished, the much-needed picturesque would have been gained. From the inside of the station the façade cannot be expected to be particularly fine; but its distribution of parts is good; and it must be considered essentially as a back front, which must accommodate whatever cannot find a place elsewhere. The first story is good, the rounding of the door jambs particularly so, and, from their size, the three large arches present an imposing appearance. The balcony to the mezzanine floor will afford room for a large number of persons, but the balusters themselves are of singularly ugly form. The balconies of the great hall are worse than useless; they are only of the width of the window, and therefore nothing whatever is gained by using them; indeed, the use of balustrades on this front has been most injudicious. We feel sure that no greater mistake was ever made than when a blank balustrade was put up against the wall above the principal cornice, and the unsuitableness of the position is not modified by the tasteless form of the baluster used. It should never be forgotten that the use of a balustrade is to prevent accidents—nothing more; to stick, therefore, a balustrade composed of half or three quarter balusters against a wall, or carry it across a blank arch, is obviously inappropriate. As we said before, this front is difficult of treatment, but there was no need for a single baluster. For the mezzanine balcony an iron rail, as is used in the galleries of the Euston-square station, would be most serviceable; and a similar but perhaps more elaborate device would have suited the windows of the great hall. Suggestions of improvement are, however, in most cases, comparatively easy; and we should not have made so many objections to what may appear trifles had it not been that the importance of the building invites rather than deprecates criticism. The architect of a little personage who succeeds, after infinite trouble, in building a comfortable, appropriate, and good house at reasonable cost has more difficulties to encounter, and often exercises greater skill, than one who designs a palace. To pick holes in the coat of the one might be serious and might have a literal effect; to point out possible improvements in the designs of the other is a course we think advantageous for all parties. What we think objectionable stands in the street and there preaches its evil lesson; our counteracting effort reaches but comparatively few, and then only in the mild form of a gentle protest.—*Building News*.

### THE RAILWAY PLATFORM.

Our smaller Engraving represents the platform of this largest and now most important of all the London railway termini. The Cannon-street station is larger than the Charing-cross station, and twice as large as the Great Northern station at King's-cross, being 120 ft. high, 202 ft. wide, and 685 ft. in length. It was designed by Mr. John Hawkshaw, the chief engineer, and executed under his superintendence, assisted by Mr. J. W. Barry, the resident engineer. It contains nine lines of rails, with five platforms, one of them having a double carriage-road for entrance and exit. At the east side there

is a single line of rails with a platform; next two more lines; then the double platform; further on three lines with platform; again two lines and platform, with a single line at the west, as at the opposite side. Eight of these lines will be used for ordinary traffic, and the ninth for reserve stock. The roof, which is of iron, is supported by nineteen wrought-iron girders. Two thousand tons of metal were employed in the construction; while in the building of the walls no fewer than 31,000,000 of bricks were used. The whole of the ironwork about the roof and bridge weighed 14,000 tons. The bridge over the Thames is upwards of 700 ft. in length, and has five spans, three of which are 147 ft. and two 135 ft. in width. The construction is on the continuous girder principle. The pillars upon which the roadways rest are plain iron columns, which rise straight from the bed of the river. The nine lines of rails in the station are reduced to five on the bridge. Of these two pairs communicate with Charing-cross, two with the eastern lines, and the central metals are reserved for independent purposes. There is a narrow footway running on each side of the bridge. The greatest care has been taken to adopt as perfect a system of signals as possible. There are sixty semaphores at different points of the locality. The signal-box outside the station and at the point of the bridge is one of the largest and completest that has yet been constructed. It extends from one side of the bridge to the other, and has a range of sixty-seven levers. Two signal-men are stationed there, except from twelve midnight till six a.m.; but each man is kept on duty not longer than six hours a day. In the same box there will be stationed a registering clerk and a telegraph clerk. When this terminus was first opened for traffic, last summer, great confusion prevailed for a time in consequence of difficulties in arranging the trains and controlling the traffic. We presume, however, that these difficulties have now been surmounted, for we have heard of no complaints being made for several months past. The business of the terminus seems now to be conducted to the satisfaction both of the public and of the South-Eastern Railway Company, to which it belongs.

### NEWSPAPER DEFENCE FUND.

It has been proposed to establish an association for the protection of the press from frivolous and unwarranted legal persecution in the pursuit of its duties. For this purpose a common fund is to be raised, to which all journalists and those interested in the protection of the press are solicited to contribute. There is no doubt that there was a time when the press abused its power to a very great extent. Reference to the newspapers of many years past illustrates this fact in a very curious way, and the journalist of the present day must read them with absolute wonder. Pistol and sword were then the only arm the vilified public had to resort to. That was not always convenient or efficacious, so the law put out its force, and, as is often the case in correcting an abuse, went to the extreme the other way, and became itself tyrannical and unjust. It is quite time that an alteration in the existing state of the law were made, and we would therefore rather see a combination of the press of the whole of the country than a fund raised for the support and protection of the common interest. A league of the press to enforce upon the Legislature a sound and just law with regard to the press at the present moment is what is required. The law, as it exists, is a disgrace to the country, if an injustice sanctioned by the law is a disgrace; if an instrument of oppression of one class over the other, sanctioned by the law, is a wrong. Journalists do not, we are certain, wish to receive increased powers; they do not ask for any more license or liberty for their pens; but what they do ask is that the law should be clearly defined, the limits distinctly specified, and the liability known. So far may you go, but no further. At the present moment the public loudly clamours for the fullest information, they demand also a bold and decisive expression of opinion in the columns of the press for the common good. When they are not thus catered for, they resent the slighting of the public demand by withdrawing their patronage. When complied with, there is always someone lying in wait ready to take advantage of the pressure of the law, and to put his hand into the pockets of the journalist, which they have no conscience in plundering, or believe ought to be as much public property as the printed sheet itself. Every other class of property, land, household, merchandise, &c., is securely protected; but press property to the extent of millions in this country is at the mercy of the adventurer, who can lay a trap for a momentary error of judgment or lack of information about the matter pressed upon the journalist for immediate consideration and publication. We might simply instance that if A agrees with B to asperse B's character before 10,000 people at a public meeting, and the journalist in his public duty reports the proceeding, B has what is facetiously called his remedy at law, and the journalist at his mercy has simply to open his pocket for B to put his hand into and rob him. We might amplify these remarks and point out the pleasant condition of the law with regard to the press. Each journal, as an individual organ of a class or locality, has a considerable amount of power. It is asked for and freely given to all good works, or for warranted party or local interests. Newspapers are assuredly very influential in returning a large number of the members of Parliament, and in holding them in the good estimation of their constituents. Therefore we believe collectively, as a league—though we have not much liking for the word—we could press the interests of the journalists, as a class, home to the Legislature; and, demanding nothing unfair and injurious to the interests of the public, we could obtain a secure and established position with regard to our duties, we could free ourselves from the power at least of the class we have alluded to, who are ever on the alert to rob the press. We hope our contemporaries will, rather than subscribe towards a common fund of money, combine to force upon the immediate consideration of the Legislature an immediate consideration of the law with regard to the press. Individually in their respective localities, and collectively as a body, we have strength, and let us use it. No one has ever dared to say the power of the press collectively, scarcely ever individually, is used to wrong the public in any way; and in this instance, in asking justice for the press, the protection of a large amount of property, and fair liberty of speech, we are sure the public would not consider a combination of the press in the least way injurious to the interests of the country.—*Court Journal*.

**DREADFUL SHIPWRECK—NINE LIVES LOST.**—During the prevalence of a powerful squall of wind from N.N.E., which blew on the coasts of Anglesea last Saturday night, the Thomas Humphreys (supposed to be a Norwegian barque), which left Liverpool last Friday, with salt, for New York, was caught, when off the Skerries, and all her sails were blown off in ribbons, so that the unfortunate vessel was left entirely at the mercy of a stormy sea and a fearful gale. She drifted on the Conlyn Rocks, sixteen miles from Holyhead and six miles from Amlwch, and became a total wreck near the Furlough Rock. The captain, mate, and seven of the crew lost their lives. Two of the crew managed, almost miraculously, to reach the shore on pieces of the wreck. The body of the mate was washed up on Sunday. Immediately on intelligence reaching Holyhead, Mr. Samons, of the customs, and Mr. Rowe, of the coastguard, repaired thither, in company with their men, to save as much of the property as possible.

**THE COLLIERY EXPLOSIONS RELIEF FUND.**—On Monday a meeting of the committee was held at the Mansion House. The Lord Mayor occupied the chair. Mr. Gibbs, the secretary, reported that the total amount of the subscription at the Mansion House up to that day was £19,461. On the motion of Mr. Gray the sum of £13,000, part of the fund, was directed to be transferred to the bank of Messrs. Barclay, Bevan, and Co., Lombard-street, to be held on deposit, at interest, and available, or any part of it, at seven days' notice, pending the ultimate disposal of the fund. A letter from Mr. Peacock, the hon. secretary of the Oaks Colliery Relief Fund, was read, which stated, amongst other things, that the committee at Barneley believed their duty was to administer the funds placed in their hands as supplementary to the relief afforded by the guardians. A conversation, in which Mr. S. Morley, Mr. Alderman Cotton, and Mr. Alderman Finnis took part, followed the reading of the letter, and it was at last decided that the Lord Mayor should intimate to the Barneley authorities that the Mansion House Committee would regret the necessity for resorting to parochial aid on the part of those who suffered from the recent explosions.

**DISGRACEFUL CONDUCT IN ST. JAMES'S PARK.**—The number of persons in St. James's Park from two until five o'clock on Sunday last was very great, the keepers reporting that upwards of 50,000 people passed in at the various gates during those hours. The great proportion of those persons were respectable tradesmen and mechanics, with their families, but there was also an immense assemblage of "roughs." Not being able to go on the ice, they found amusement in snowballing and bonneting each other. When tired of their rough play with each other, as might be expected, in the absence of the police, they turned their attention to any respectably-dressed persons who came in their way, and maltreated and insulted them in the most disgraceful manner. The foot-bridge over the ornamental water was the chief scene of their exploits. This bridge, on these occasions, is always crowded by people passing from one side of the inclosure to the other. Gangs of these roughs and thieves assembled to the number of several hundreds at each end of the bridge, and, at a given signal, when the bridge was crowded with respectably-dressed persons, they rushed on pell-mell, hustling and bonneting all who came in their way, watches, purses, and pins changing owners with extraordinary rapidity. This disgraceful scene was repeated about every half hour till it grew dark. The park-keepers did all they could to repress the disorderly scene, but they were comparatively powerless. A dozen police constables would have been effective for the purpose, but they were not there, and so the roughs had possession of the park until all respectable people had been chased away, there was no more plunder to be obtained, or people to be hunted down.



## Literature.

*The Conspiracy of Gian Luigi Fieschi; or, Genoa in the Sixteenth Century.* By EMANUELE CELESIA. Translated from the Italian, by David H. Wheeler. London: Sampson Low and Co.

The second title of this book may be looked upon as a happy thought, since not more than one fourth of the pages have any reference to Gian Luigi Fieschi personally. But yet the unfortunate young schemer had much to do with the time in which he lived, and he and his family had much to do with the fortunes of Genoa. In that country, "from the Alps to the Adriatic," throughout all the land which we now call Italy, family history was so much mixed up with public history that separation is almost impossible, since a mention of the Orsini at once involves the Colonnas, and where the Colonnas may lead you historians themselves do not know. Very likely Signor Emanuele Cesia is aware of this danger of confusion; it is evident from his volume that he has been powerless to prevent his subject running away with him. A more ingeniously diffuse account of a very small subject was never written. Take any Cyclopaedia, and the articles "Doria," "Andrew" and "Fieschi, Giovanni Luigi," will probably be sufficient to satisfy all but enthusiasts. But, then, Signor Cesia is an enthusiast; and the reader is warned that never before was a subject so glaringly whitewashed. And this is the more strange because there is so little occasion for the use of the brush. Fieschi, Count of Lavagna, only attempted to free his country from foreign rule—and got drowned in the attempt. But for that accident he must have succeeded; and then, indeed, he might have done what Cromwell did a century later; and, if with similar results, people may be inclined to ask, "Why not?" But the name of Fieschi met with considerable abuse in the sixteenth century, and Signor Cesia is up in arms, often very recklessly. He is outspoken, and sometimes really does want to get at the truth. First of all, or rather after the family of Fieschi have had an opening chapter of laudation, a gentleman who has always borne a good character, considering the *mores* of the time and place, is hurled from his pedestal with an iron hand. "It was a grave delusion or sycophantic flattery to attribute to him (Leo X.) the impulse that revived liberal studies. The great intellects who flourished under his pontificate had risen to fame before his time. He covered them with wealth and honours out of no sympathy with their pursuits, but to emasculate their independent spirits and stifle the groans of the nation. . . . The manners of Leo were wholly corrupt, and his religion Atheism." However, it is possible that Leo was not worse than others of the period. Paul III. remembered the hospitality he had received from the Fieschi family, and wondered that none of them had sought honours from him in the Papal Court. Perhaps the Fieschi family thought it most honourable not to demand payment for hospitality bestowed, and Paul was absolutely astonished at their want of meanness. And yet the Count, the subject of this memoir, could not have been very particular. When he heard of Paul's remembrance of the family hospitality, he did not hesitate to get Paul's assistance in his plot; and it is impossible not to think that his conspiracy arose much less from love of his suffering country than from his hatred to the Dorias, for his vanity was wounded when Andrea prevented his proposed marriage with the daughter of Prince Centurione and insisted on her marrying his nephew Gianettino. This injured vanity, by-the-way, made Fieschi marry the next best beloved one immediately. Then came the admirably-planned conspiracy, and then the death—Fieschi in his armour stumbling over a landing-stage in the harbour and being drowned. But great caution is necessary in making or taking such assertions, for Signor Cesia does not believe that Fieschi was drowned. He was a Crichton in every respect, and, of course, could swim like a fish; therefore he must have knocked his head against something, or, at any rate, have died of anything but drowning. Moreover, the harbour was not very deep. Now, to this we have only to say that to a man in armour 6 ft. of water would prove quite as conclusive as the middle of the Atlantic. But Signor Cesia cannot bear so base an imputation as drowning to blot the character of his hero.

This character is anything but settled yet. People who are fond of conspirators will certainly admire it. All the time he was plotting, this young man "made no change in his manners and life, and carried an open and jovial countenance. . . . He seemed to have no other care than races, the chase, and the dance." This is inconsistent with all the virtues and accomplishments insisted on; and the whole affair is inconsistent with the assertion that "he could not bring himself to approve schemes of corruption and bloodshed." To what else did he bring himself? He practised corruption extensively; and must have been a fool to think he could get 10,000 armed men together to overthrow a Government without bloodshed. The man was all dissimulation. He was Machiavel to the backbone, and even kissed Gianettino Doria's children two or three hours before he had their father murdered. This is not the way to write history; but, fortunately, the nonsense of puffery is so apparent that it can scarcely do harm. But the author is reckless. He quotes Cardinal de Retz:—"Strange! Ten thousand persons in Italy were awaiting the outbreak of the revolution, and there was not one to betray the plot;" but, to judge from his own confused pages, the plot was undoubtedly betrayed. Therefore this book must be taken with much caution. Italian history is always interesting, but, as we have said, confusing; and when it is written in the reckless manner pointed out, it becomes mystifying. The simplicity of a school-book is refreshing after it.

*Unspoken Sermons.* By GEORGE MACDONALD, Author of "Within and Without," "Phantasies," "Alec Forbes," &c. London: Alex. Strahan.

Whatever may justly be said of the inapplicability of Mr. MacDonald's method to the ends of textual elucidation in general, we have never read sermons so beautiful as these. We think some of his treatment of the text as unhappy as anything can possibly be (notably in the fourth, seventh, and eighth sermons); but no critical error can destroy the nobleness, tenderness, and truthfulness which the author's mind always pours into his work. The discourses have never been preached; they were written down on "broken" Sundays; but their fault is not any fault of composition: it is a fault of a much more serious character—the fault, namely, of treating words spoken centuries ago, with special applications of their own, just as if they had dropped from the skies yesterday with a direction in English print for the modern English mind to see what it can make of them.

A strong case in point occurs on page 239, where the words "the meek shall possess the land" [earth] are made to mean that if we bring to Nature "a heart that watches and receives" we shall be led into a perfect spiritual possession of her. Now, this is most divinely true, and no one has seen it more clearly, or said it more sweetly, than Mr. George MacDonald; but as to the words in question, it is no more *ad rem* than a line out of the "Arabian Nights" would be.

The subject is so important that, to make our meaning quite clear, we will take a most striking example from the same writer, though it is anonymous, and in another place. There is a passage in which the poor are felicitated upon the ground that (on a certain Divine hypothesis) their poverty is to cease, and their condition to be merged in one of universal happiness; the very heavens being opened, and the angels ascending and descending upon the earth. Through the wickedness of men the realisation of that hypothesis was postponed, and another economy came to intervene. Now, this writer proceeds to find "infinite depths of meaning" in the very simple words in question, and actually compels language which said that certain poor would be blessed when their poverty was divinely removed, to mean that the poor are *now* blessed because poverty has special spiritual opportunities. This is finding "infinite depths of meaning," with a vengeance. The truth is, that whenever a mystic or poetic utterance is of any value it can stand alone. It may, however, be fair to use any textual authority as a motto or suggestion; only that must be plainly understood, or rather made plain. Where a symbolic meaning is founded upon a "literal" meaning, the law is, that the higher meaning shall be inferable from the lower, and vice versa. When this rule is not

observed, the infinite-depths-of-meaning system only leads—as it has, in fact, led us all—to infinite depths of confusion.

And now, having said this, we can with a clear conscience recommend this work as among the best, not only of the year but of all years, from the time of Job downwards. But we cannot close without asking the author whether it is not possible that the *direct* relevancy of the sublime narrative with respect to which he writes so decisively (and, we think, rashly), on page 133, was not human at all, but *superhuman*? It is quite possible, surely, that what was transacted with primary reference to other orders of beings was recorded for our *information*, rather than our immediate edification. Nor is the narrative itself without suggestion of the kind, even taken apart from other portions of the book in which it stands. See, *passim*, the appendix to Chalmers's "Astronomical Discourses."

*The Triumph Over Midian.* By A. L. O. E., Authoress of "The Shepherd of Bethlehem," "Exiles in Babylon," "Rescued from Egypt," &c. London: T. Nelson and Sons.

The authoress of this admirable little volume says in her preface:—"A humble task has been mine—that of endeavouring to show that the same faith by which heroes of old out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens, is still, as the gift of God's grace, bestowed on the lowliest Christian." A good work this, and well performed; a fact on which we congratulate the authoress, while we sympathise in the troubles under which it was undertaken and accomplished.

*Our Artist in Peru (Fifty Drawings on Wood): Leaves from the Sketch-book of a Traveller during the Winter of 1865-6.* By GEO. W. CARLETON, Author of "Our Artist in Cuba," &c. New York: Carleton; London: S. Low, Son, and Co.

The name of Mr. Geo. W. Carleton may not, perhaps, be familiar to many English readers; but he has had considerable success in providing amusing trifles among his own countrymen. A previous effort, "Our Artist in Cuba," published in 1865, having been favourably received, Mr. Carleton was encouraged to issue the present volume; and we are sure that, in a country where quaint humour is so much appreciated as it is in America, he can have had no reason to regret the venture. In his preface, or "Preliminary Word," as he calls it, Mr. Carleton says:—"Essaying only to convey a ray of information through the glasses of humour, the author has multiplied with printer's ink his book of sketches, which, although caricatures, are but exaggerations of actual events, on the spur of the moment jotted down, for the same sort of mere pastime as may lead the reader to linger along its ephemeral pages." This extract very fairly describes Mr. Carleton's work; and we confess to have lingered a considerable time "along its ephemeral pages" and to have enjoyed many a chuckle at the quaintly funny delineations it contains. We thank Mr. Carleton for much quiet amusement, and are sure such of our readers as see the book will do the same.

*Onions, Dressed and Served in a Hundred Different Ways.* By GEORGIANA HILL, Author of "The Cook's Own Book," &c. London: G. Routledge and Sons.

We hope none of our readers are so refined and delicate in their feelings as to be offended at the mention of onions, to which most people are partial, and would freely indulge their taste were it not for the "after-breath" so characteristic of the bulb, and so decidedly disagreeable both to self and neighbours. Onions, as well as leeks, "is goot," and, when they can be partaken of without incurring the objectionable consequences above referred to, are a valuable and wholesome article of diet. Our thanks, therefore, are due to those who, like our author, supply us with information as to how onions may most pleasantly be cooked and served; and surely one hundred ways will be sufficient to satisfy the requirements of even the most devoted epicure in onion-eating. We recommend all who are not ashamed to own to a penchant for this savoury, if somewhat vulgar, vegetable to procure Miss Hill's little book—it only costs 6d.—and study how they can please their appetites without giving offence to other senses, either in themselves or in those with whom they have occasion to come into contact.

*The Chess Player's Magazine.* Edited by J. LÖWENTHAL. Vol. II. New Series. London: Adams and Francis.

To the lovers of the noble game of chess—and who that understands it does not love it?—this publication must be at once a source of great amusement and of much valuable instruction. We have here an outline of the chess history of the time, reports of important matches, letters on the laws and modes of playing the game, and numerous new and interesting problems. In short, the "Chess Player's Magazine" keeps its readers thoroughly "posted up" in all that relates to the game, whether in England or abroad. It is as well to note the fact that the magazine is now published by Messrs. Adams and Francis, of Fleet-street.

*Original Penny Readings.* By GEORGE MANVILLE FENN. London: George Routledge and Sons.

This is the third volume of "Penny Readings" by Mr. Fenn which we have seen within a few months—a tolerable proof of industry on the part of the author and of favourable reception on the part of the public. And well Mr. Fenn's papers may be favourably received, for industry is not by any means his only merit. He may not yet—have mastered the art of keeping up interest in a continuous narrative, like his recently-published novel, "Bent, not Broken;" but in short sketches such as these volumes of "Penny Readings" contain he is not only thoroughly competent but thoroughly successful. This volume is said to contain readings for Christmas; and, though not ill-suited for any time, the opening papers, which bear the general title of "Cutting Times; or, a Frost and a Thaw," are peculiarly appropriate at this particular juncture.

## THE CHAMP DE MARS, PARIS.

THE approaching Universal Exhibition at Paris imparts a special interest to the site on which it is to take place—the Champ de Mars. The Champ de Mars is not one of the ancient sites of Paris; it is among the most modern. But what is wanting in antiquity is compensated by the magnitude of the events of which it has been the theatre. The thousands who will throng next year to the gigantic receptacle of the wonders of art and industry from all parts of the earth may feel some interest in knowing that there took place some of the most stirring incidents of modern French history. They were, indeed, of a different kind from those which will be enacted next April; they, too, gave promise of a glorious future, and it is to be hoped that these will not end, like them, in disappointment. The Champ de Mars is hardly a century old. All that portion of the left bank of the Seine, from the Rue de Bourgogne to where the Pont de Jéna now spans it, is recent; not two centuries ago it was a strip of land, very long and very narrow, called *Longue Raie*, the lower part of which was gradually raised by heaps of earth above high-water mark. The Champ de Mars owes, in fact, its existence to the Military School which stands upon it. About forty years before the outbreak of the great Revolution Louis XV. issued an edict excluding peasants from the higher grades of the army. Pursuant to that edict, the Military School was founded for the purpose of receiving 600 youths of noble families as students, and from this nursery the officers of the army were in future to be taken. The plan was adhered to during a few years only. In 1787 the school was broken up; the building, on which vast sums had been laid out, was turned into cavalry barracks; and the spacious plain in front, where the noble cadets used to exercise, was converted into a riding-ground for the new occupants.

On July 14, 1790, the Champ de Mars witnessed a novel and imposing spectacle. It was there that the delegates from all the National Guards and all the military corps of France met to take the civic oath in presence of Louis XVI. and the Constituent Assembly. The Feast of the Federation, as it was called, is still regarded as the noblest demonstration which the Revolution gave

rise to; it was hailed with transports of joy as the sincere reconciliation between the constitutional monarchy and the nation, and as the solemn ratification of the new era opened by the principles of 1789. The idea of the fête originated with the municipality of Paris. The Champ de Mars was converted into an amphitheatre capable of containing a vast multitude of spectators. Twelve thousand men laboured from early dawn till past sunset in lowering the surface and transporting the earth to make the embankments from which the spectacle might be viewed. Volunteers came in crowds—for the work was begun late—to aid the 12,000 hired workmen. Priests, monks, men of all classes, handled the pick and shovel, and women were proud of being permitted to trundle wheelbarrows; while from the suburbs crowds came in with bands of music and banners at sunrise; and, the day's labour over, all went back in order to their homes. With such enthusiasm the work was completed by the day originally fixed for it.

On the side opposite the river, and in front of the Military School, the great balcony of which was reserved for the Queen and Court, rose a lofty platform covered with rich drapery, on which the King, the Ministers, and the representatives of the nation took their stand. Four hundred thousand spectators were massed on the raised sides of the quadrangle, and, far beyond it, 60,000 armed Federals debouched from the quays by a bridge, thrown over the Seine in a few days, in that part where the Pont de Jéna now stands, and formed in the intermediate space. In the centre rose an altar. Three hundred priests, in albs and tricolour scarves, clustered on its steps and served the mass, which was celebrated by the Bishop of Autun, afterwards better known as Prince Talleyrand. When the last blessing was pronounced Lafayette advanced to where the King was seated, received from him a paper containing the form of the civic oath, and laid it upon the altar. The King rose from his throne. Amidst the waving of banners and the flashing of swords he stretched forth his hand, and in a loud voice repeated the oath; and as he uttered the last word the General, the army, the Deputies, the multitude, all fired by the same enthusiasm, shouted out, "We swear!" At this moment the rain, which had been falling the whole morning, ceased, the sky cleared up, and the beams of the sun pierced through the clouds while the "Te Deum" was chanted. It was taken as a happy omen. The shouts were again and again repeated. Never, perhaps, was popular enthusiasm more intense or more sincere than at that moment. Every heart seemed to beat with paternal affection. The festivity of the morning was closed with dances in the evening on the spot which was still encumbered with the ruins of the Bastille.

But that fête, as an historian remarks, was destined to have no morrow. Party hatreds, for a moment swept over by that deluge of joy, reappeared when it subsided, and the Revolution soon marked its presence on the Champ de Mars in blood. In less than a year after this magnificent display the King had fled from his capital, and was dragged back to it; and soon the Jacobins demanded his deposition. Their petition was laid on the same altar on which had been laid the oath of the Federation for the signatures of the citizens, and gave rise to revolt and bloodshed. Lafayette, with his National Guards, strove to quell the disorder; but when he retired the populace again invaded the Champ de Mars. The Constituent Assembly, against which the fury of the mob was directed, summoned the municipality to its bar, and made it responsible for the tranquillity of the city. Bailly, the Mayor of Paris, trusting to his influence with the people, tried to remonstrate with them. His voice was drowned in the uproar and shots were fired at him. Seeing all his efforts vain, he hoisted the red flag and proclaimed martial law. After the usual formalities, he summoned the rioters to disperse; but his summons was as little attended to as his speeches. He ordered the National Guards to use their arms. The first volley was fired in the air; at the second several were killed and many wounded, and the Champ de Mars was at last cleared. On the very same spot Bailly, two years afterwards, paid with his life for his obedience to the orders of the Assembly.

"Champ de Mars," or "Champ de Mai" was the name given to the great gatherings of the Frankish warriors from the time of the conquest of the Gauls, which were held in March or in May. They were of two kinds—military reviews or meetings of solemn import where free men did homage to the supreme chief of the Franks, and presented their annual tribute; or were composed of warriors convoked by the chief for some projected expedition, or of prelates whom he wished to consult on affairs of state. These assemblies were held at rare and irregular intervals under the Merovingians, but more frequently and regularly under the Carolingians. All trace of them disappeared from the time of Charles the Bald, when the Carolingian race was in its decline and the great feudatories in the ascendant.

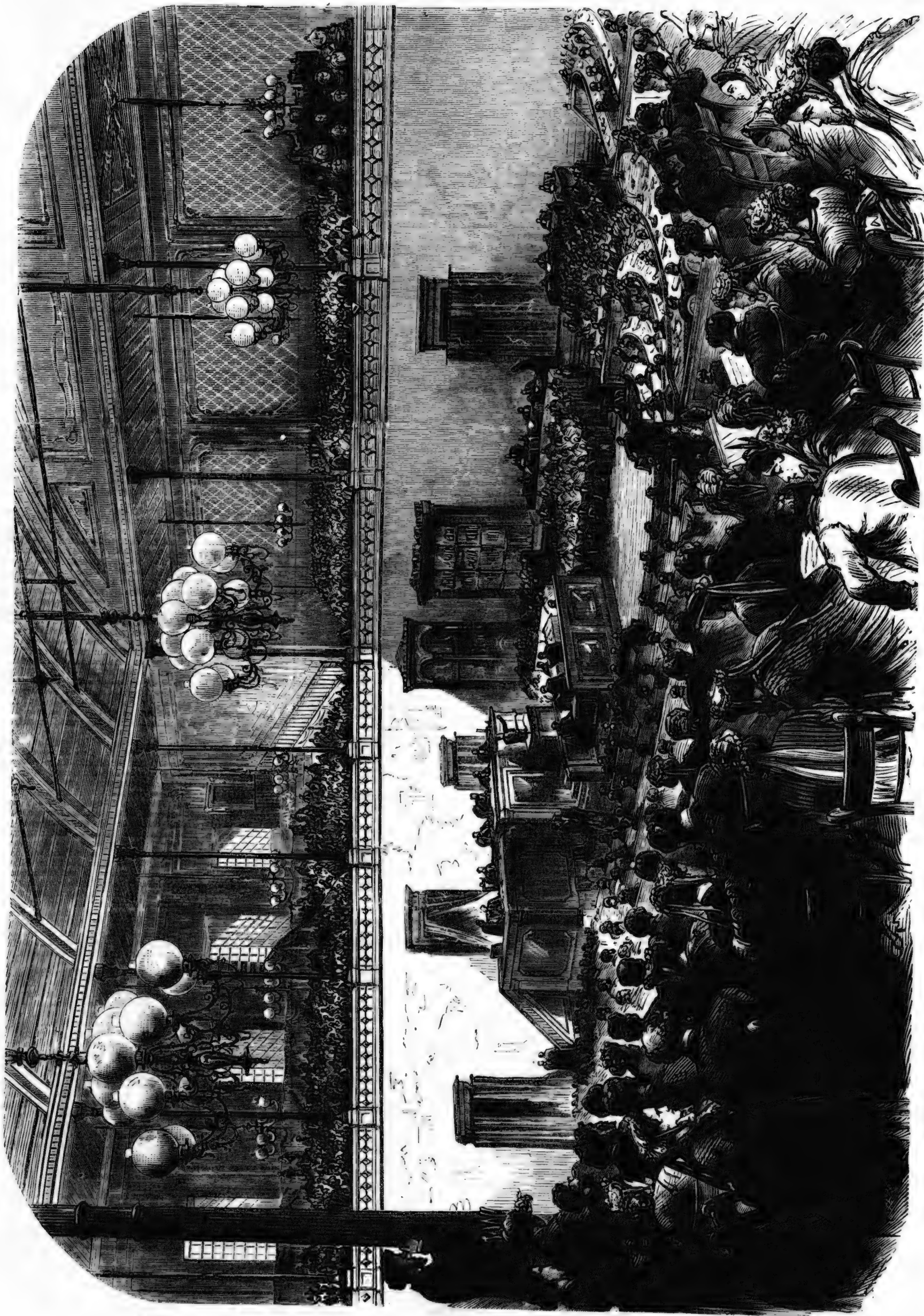
Under the first Napoleon the Champ de Mars was the chosen spot for reviews, and reviews were frequent. Two ceremonies in particular took place there which are prominent in the history of the Empire—the Distribution of Eagles and the Champ de Mai during the Hundred Days. On Dec. 5, 1804, three days after the coronation at Notre Dame, Napoleon resolved to deliver in person to the army and the National Guard the emblems which were to surmount the Imperial colours. Many circumstances concurred in giving to it a peculiar character of grandeur—the prestige of victory which attached to the name of the Emperor; the curiosity of the population, long strangers to the pomps of royalty; and the crowds of foreigners then in Paris, who had come to behold the wonderful man whose fame filled the world. The Emperor was seated on a gorgeous throne, in the same spot where Louis XVI. had sat before him, from which he viewed the troops that mustered in the plain, and the multitude that lined the slopes, the banks of the river, and the distant heights. Delegates from all the corps approached the throne and received from his hands the eagles which they swore to defend to the death. After the ceremony there was a grand banquet at the Tuilleries, when the Emperor and the Pope who crowned him sat side by side, arrayed in the Imperial and the Pontifical robes, and were served by the great officers of the Crown.

The Champ de Mai, on June 1, 1815, was held by the Emperor for the proclamation of the vote for the *Acte Additionnel* to complete the Constitution of the Empire, and to conciliate the Liberals before marching against the Allies. Thirty thousand National Guards and 20,000 troops of the line were on the ground, and, in the space between them and the platform where the vote was to be proclaimed and the oaths taken, the delegates of the electors took their stand. All Paris assembled to witness the spectacle. When Napoleon appeared shouts of "Vive l'Empereur!" broke from the army. Mass was celebrated by a Cardinal. The proclamation of the votes was read. Napoleon addressed the delegates, explained his reasons for returning to France, and announced his determination to march to the frontier and save the country from invasion. He descended from the throne, and, like Louis XVI. twenty-five years before, placed his hand on the Gospels and repeated the oath to the Constitution. He then laid aside the Imperial mantle, and, standing on the topmost step, spoke one of those spirit-stirring speeches which seemed for a moment to revive the old enthusiasm, delivered the eagle to the troops, and bid them swear to defend it against all his enemies. The National Guard and troops took the oath to the shouts of "Vive l'Empereur!" which were repeated as the Old and the Young Guard marched past.

Under the Restoration several events, but much less important, took place in the Champ de Mars. It was there that the review was held when Charles X. dissolved the National Guard not many days before the Revolution of July, and there, too, some months later, the flags were distributed to the same guard, reconstituted under Louis Philippe. For years under that pacific dynasty the Champ de Mars was occasionally used as a racecourse, but chiefly for fêtes and reviews. And there, too, the eagles were once more distributed to the army on the proclamation of the Second Empire by Napoleon III.

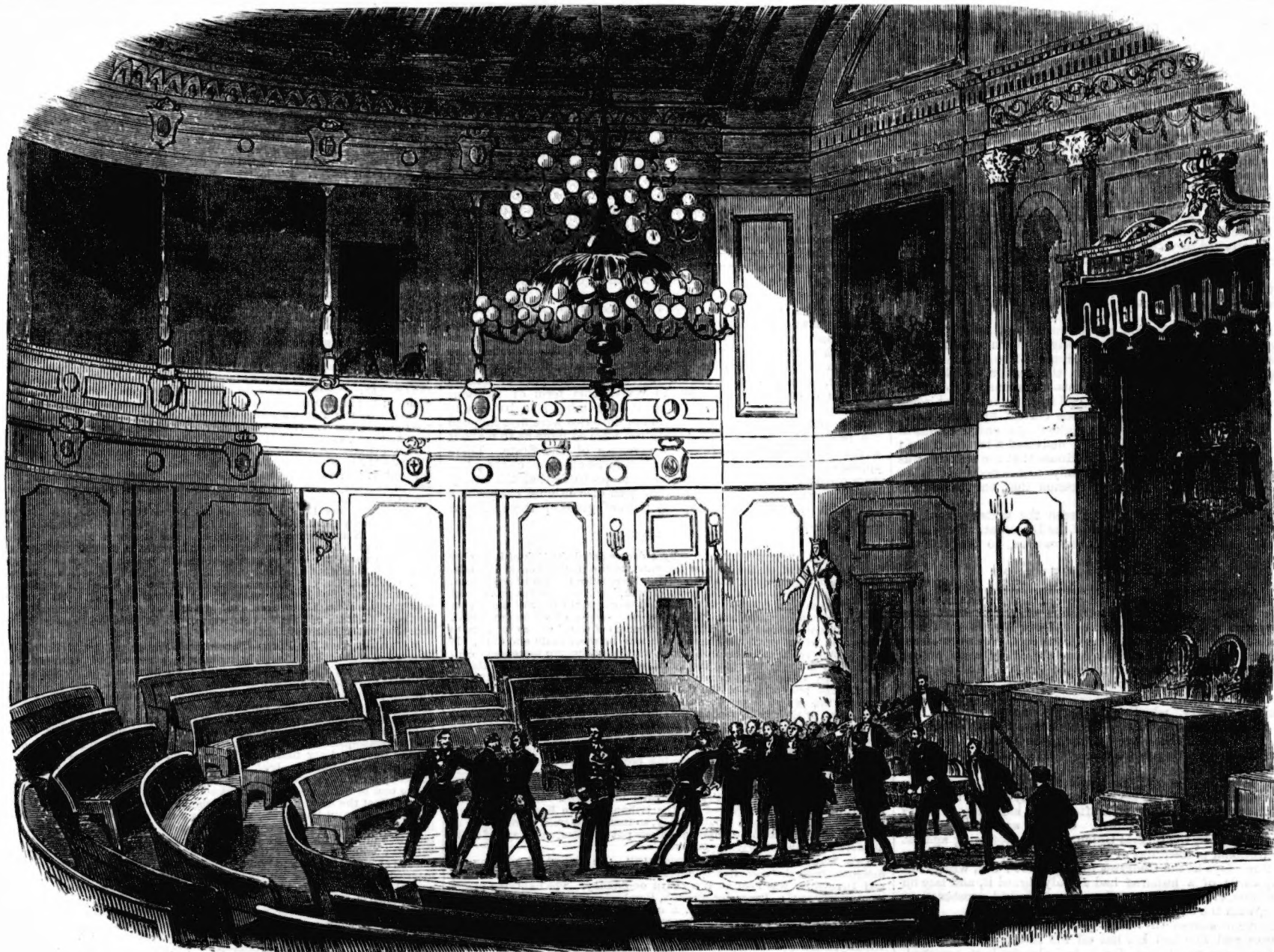
That place is now to witness a spectacle of another kind, more pacific, but more glorious than any which it has yet seen, and to which all the nations of the earth are invited; and in this contest of civilisation France is sure to distinguish herself as much as she has ever done in those of a less pacific kind.





THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES AT BERLIN IN SESSION.





ARREST OF MEMBERS OF THE SPANISH CORTES ON DEC. 27.



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Real Waterproof Tweed Mantles and Cloaks, 12s. 9d. and 14s. 9d.  
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